

BOWL PREVIEW
Washington Huskies

FIVE QUESTIONS
Austin Jones

FULL 2010 LINEUP
Bowl Matchups

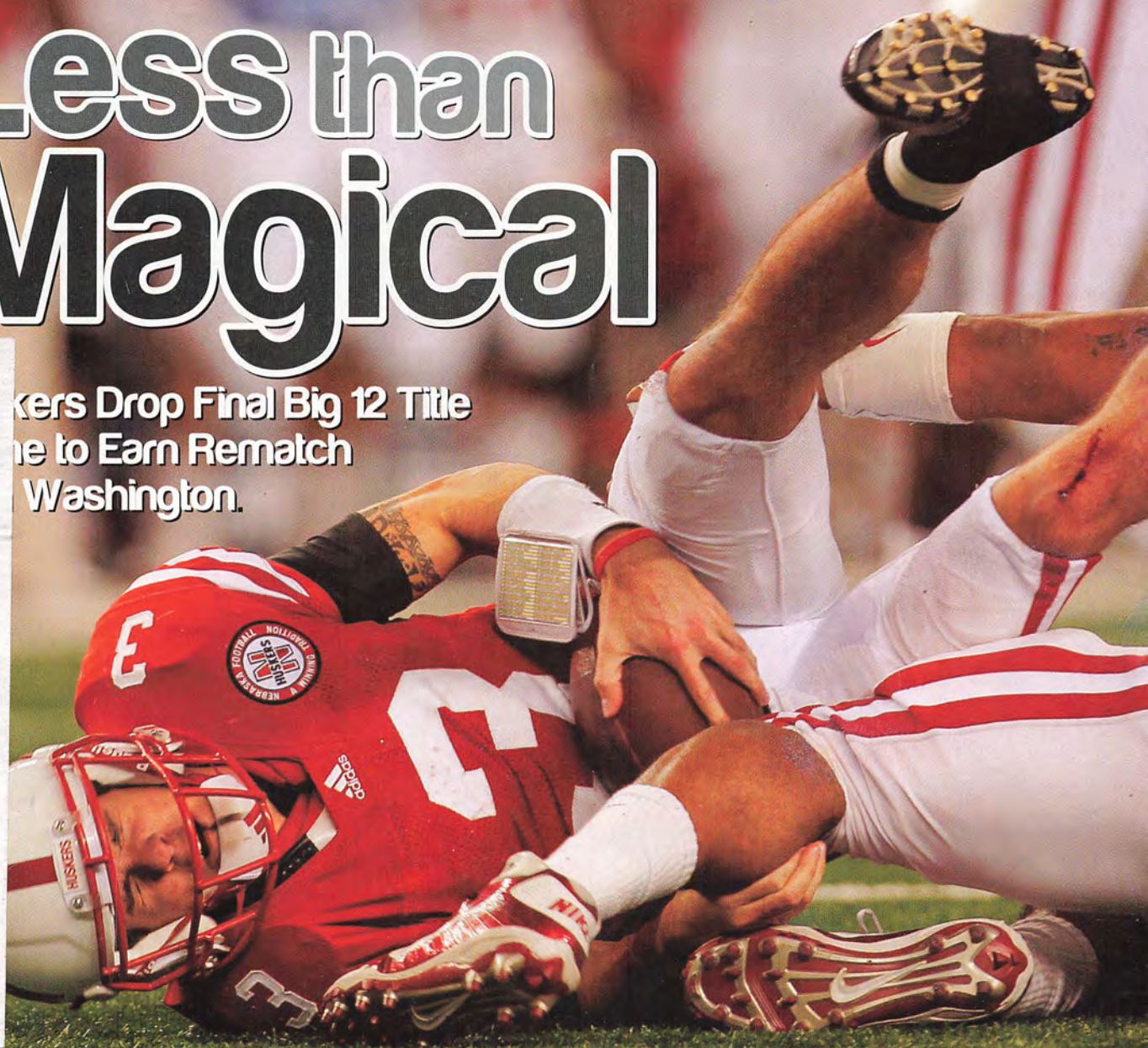
THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

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Less than Magical


Huskers Drop Final Big 12 Title
to Earn Rematch
Washington.



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Taylor Martinez fumbled
three times in first return
since multiple injuries.



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Contents

JANUARY, 2011 * VOLUME 31 * NO. 1

COLUMNS



20

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Watson continues to search for balanced attack



43

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN

Huskers close, but work remains before Signing Day



54

THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Huskers looking for traction in the friction



IN MEMORIAM: Dan Young, a Husker assistant from 1983 to 2002, died in late November after a five-month battle with brain cancer. He was 69. Young coached the freshman team for three seasons, then joined Milt Tenopir in working with

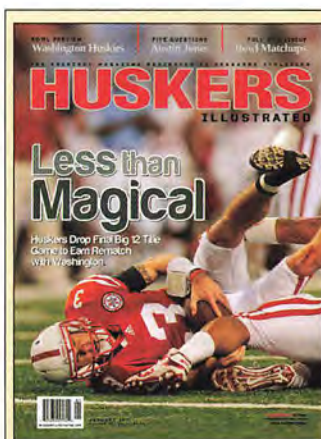
the offensive line as well as working with the kickers. "The kids absolutely loved Dan because of his honesty and the fact he was a straight shooter with them," Tenopir told the Lincoln Journal Star. "Ain't nothing phony about him."



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comes in handy.

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ON THE COVER

Quarterback Taylor Martinez struggled against the Sooners in the Big 12 Championship game, completing 12-of-24 passes for 143 yards with an interception and rushing 14 times for negative 32 yards. The freshman was hurried all night and was sacked seven times.

Photo by Scott Bruhn

NEXT ISSUE

Volume 31, Issue 2, the Holiday Bowl recap, will be mailed Monday, Jan. 10. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

DOG DAYS

A 10-win season should feel better than this, right?

IF YOU THREW AN outsider in the middle of a water cooler conversation, or had him read a Husker message board, he would likely be convinced 2010 was a disaster season for Nebraska.

Fire this coach. Fire that coach. This player wants to transfer.

What a terrible season for the Huskers.

Oh wait. That's not it.

Nebraska won a Big 12 North Division championship, made a Big 12 title appearance and is traveling to sunny San Diego for a bowl game with a chance to win 11 games.

A 10-win season should feel better than this, right?

After all, it's a pretty good time for Husker Nation.

Nebraska is finally done with the Big 12. The transition to the Big Ten is nearly complete. The coaching staff has nearly put the finishing touches on a recruiting class that is considered one of the best in the country.

Nebraska is less than 12 months away from having a legitimate border rival.

The cupboard appears to be stocked with numerous playmakers on both sides of the ball.

The Blackshirts, which nearly drifted to extinction under Bill Callahan, are not only back but own back-to-back Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year awards.

Incredible, right?

So why does it feel like a lost Husker football season? Because at Nebraska, seasons are defined by championships.

Despite being just three years removed from missing a bowl game this had the makings of a BCS bowl team. Husker



fans saw glimpses that led them to believe this team was on the doorstep of greatness.

This team should have been in a BCS bowl. The talent was there, but the execution wasn't when the game was on the line.

Now instead of reveling in glory, we see a program swirling with rumors.

Maybe that's the product of an age of blogs, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

But no matter the cause, the negativity has been near cancerous. Talk has centered on hatred for the Big 12, hatred by the Big 12 and rumors of Taylor Martinez's future with the program. Even before the Big 12 Championship game was decided, fans were clamoring for coaching changes on Bo Pelini's staff.

As we went to press, rumors were bubbling about Miami's interest in Pelini. Offensive coordinator Shawn Watson was reported to be a candidate as head coach at Vanderbilt. Defensive ends/special teams coordinator John Papuchis was being mentioned for the same position at Texas.

Obviously when a program has success, coaches will be recruited for other jobs. That's the nature of athletics. Those outside the program recognize Nebraska's success.

But in Nebraska it never feels like enough. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





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AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Prince Amukamara is the eighth Husker defensive back, and fourth *cornerback, to earn first-team All-America honors from an accredited organization since 1964, when NCAA rules were changed to allow two-platoon play. The others:

Larry Wachholtz, safety (1966)
Wonder Monds, safety (1975)
Dave Butterfield, cornerback (1976)
Bret Clark, safety (1984)
Mike Brown, safety (1999)
Ralph Brown, cornerback (1999)
Keyuo Craver, cornerback (2001)

*[*DeJuan Groce, a cornerback, earned All-America recognition in 2002 as a kick returner]*

Never mind that Prince Amukamara hasn't intercepted a pass this season. Statistics don't necessarily tell the entire story. Even the fact that the senior cornerback from Glendale, Ariz., leads the Cornhuskers in pass break-ups, with 13, doesn't show his ability or value to the defense.

So interceptions or not, Amukamara was named to the 25-player 2010 American Football Coaches Association All-America team. His selection "says that the people voting know what they're talking about," coach Bo Pelini said. "It's not about statistics; it's about how you play."

And Amukamara has played consistently well.

"He's a tremendous football player," said Pelini. "I think that honor was well deserved."

Being named to the AFCA All-America team was among several such honors he has received. He also was named the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and was a finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award.

Amukamara has excelled "I think, because of his intelligence," said defensive backs coach Marvin Sanders. "He really understands the game of football and how offense will attack our defense, and so I think he's able to put himself in position to have some success.

"I think that's his biggest asset, knowledge of the game right now."

Amukamara, like Ndamukong Suh, could have left Nebraska following his junior season, but opted to return, a decision that has proven to be wise. Obviously, he has matured, but he also has improved.

As good as he was as a junior, "he wasn't the type of player he is now because his knowledge of the game wasn't there," Sanders said. "He was playing strictly off athletic ability, and sometimes when you get to that next level, everybody's that kind of athlete. So what he had to do was enhance his knowledge of the game. And I think that's what he did this past year."

Amukamara came to Nebraska looking for an opportunity to play offense. And he needed some time to accept his role on defense. "Prince still thinks he can play running back," said Sanders. "But I think as time has progressed, he realized that, of course, he's better on the defensive side of the ball.

HI'S TOP 5

FIVE BOWLS TO FORGET



Nebraska will be playing in its 47th post-season bowl game on the night of Dec. 30, a second consecutive Holiday Bowl for the Huskers, and a rematch with Washington besides. Though bowls are regarded as rewards for successful seasons, not all are remembered fondly. Here are five, not including Orange Bowls against Miami, with OB Committee folks openly cheering for the Hurricanes.

- 1 OKLAHOMA 31, NEBRASKA 24** (Orange Bowl)
Jan. 1, 1979 – Rematch of a regular-season game won by the Huskers, anyone?
- 2 ARIZONA ST 17, NEBRASKA 14** (Fiesta Bowl)
Dec. 26, 1975 – National championship hopes dashed by Oklahoma, the Huskers vote not to accept a bowl bid. Another vote is taken, however, and they play ASU at home.
- 3 MISSISSIPPI 27, NEBRASKA 23** (Independence Bowl)
Dec. 27, 2002 – Bowl eligibility at 7-6 earns the Huskers a trip to Shreveport (see Games Remembered).
- 4 NEBRASKA 41, VIRGINIA TECH 21** (Orange Bowl)
Dec. 31, 1996 – Little appeal following back-to-back national titles. Attendance: 51,212.
- 5 NEBRASKA 21, LSU 20** (Orange Bowl)
Jan. 1, 1983 – Again, no national title on the line, plus racial unrest in Miami. Attendance: 54,407.

JUST SAYIN'



The Texas A&M game has to be taken into account (16 penalties for 145 yards), of course, as well as the fact that these are totals not averages, but the 2010 Huskers are on pace to be the most penalized team in school history. Through 13 games, they had been penalized 97 times for 891 yards, just short of last season's team, which was penalized 100 times for 894 yards. Second on both lists had been the 2008 team, with 94 penalties for 800 yards in 13 games.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

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2010 SCHEDULE

9/4	W. KENTUCKY, W, 49-10
9/11	IDAHO, W, 38-17
9/18	at Washington, W, 56-21
9/25	SOUTH DAKOTA ST, W, 17-3
10/7	at Kansas State, W, 48-13
10/16	TEXAS, L, 13-20
10/23	at Oklahoma State, W, 51-41
10/30	MISSOURI, W, 31-17
11/6	at Iowa State, W, 31-30 (OT)
11/13	KANSAS, W, 20-3
11/20	at Texas A&M, L 9-6
11/26	COLORADO, W, 45-17
12/4	vs. Oklahoma, L, 20-23
12/30	vs. Washington, 9 p.m. CST, ESPN

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Oh, Henery

Go figure. Alex Henery is on his way to breaking four NCAA career records for place-kicking and he has already tied an NCAA career record by kicking four or more field goals in a game six times, yet the senior from Omaha wasn't selected to the conference coaches' All-Big 12 first team.

"I think it's crazy," said coach Bo Pelini. "I also thought it was crazy that he wasn't a finalist for the (Lou) Groza Award. I think when it's all said and done, when the guys who know, the guys who really watch, and it comes (NFL) draft time, I think it will be obvious where he is in the pecking order.

"I'm not taking anything away from...I don't even know who got first team, but I'm not taking anything away from him; I just wouldn't trade Alex for any kicker in the country."

Barring something unforeseen, Henery will break NCAA career records for field goal percentage, percentage for field goals of 40 yards or longer, percentage for field goals from inside 40 yards and accuracy rate for extra-point kicks and field goals combined.

NFL scouts "love him," Pelini said. "He's done it for a long period of time."

Even though Henery was also the coaches' second-team punter, Oklahoma State senior Dan Bailey, the first-team place-kicker, was named Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Year.

SIDELINES



COMING BACK, PROBABLY

Junior cornerback Alfonzo Dennard, second-team All-Big 12 according to the conference coaches, may have played in the shadow of Prince Amukamara, the coaches' Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, but "I think in the end his opportunity will come next year," said coach Bo Pelini.

"I think he recognizes that. Believe me, Alfonzo is very happy for Prince, but I think you'll see him in this very similar situation next year."

Does that mean Dennard won't be declaring early for the NFL draft?

"I think his mindset is to come back," Pelini said.

Amukamara also could have left after his junior season, but "his mindset was to come back," said Pelini. "He felt there was a lot more out there for him. I think he made the right decision."

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Austin's Academic Powers

Safety Austin Cassidy, who came to Nebraska as a walk-on, was among four defensive backs on the University Division 2010 ESPN Academic All-America first team. The junior from Lincoln carries a 3.88 cumulative grade-point average as a psychology major.

Cassidy is the Huskers' 69th first-team academic All-American all-time in football and the first since Kurt Mann and Dane Todd in 2005. Nebraska has produced a nation-

leading 103 ESPN Academic All-Americans in football, including second- and third-team selections.

Cassidy is a two-time Academic All-District VII and Academic All-Big 12 honoree, and he has been named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll in each of his six semesters.

The Academic All-America team is selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

SIDELINES



FURTHER FROM 1,000

What once seemed certain, Taylor Martinez's becoming the third freshman quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards, isn't now. Martinez was sacked seven times for 48 yards in losses in the Big 12 title game and finished with rushing net of minus-32 yards to reduce his season's total to 942 yards.

The only freshman quarterbacks in the Football Bowl Subdivision of the NCAA (formerly Division I-A) to rush for 1,000 yards were Missouri's Brad Smith (1,093 in 2002) and Kent State's Joshua Cribbs (1,019 in 2001). Martinez was on pace to run past both before being slowed by injury.



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FIRST & SECOND

Former Husker defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh would appear to be well on his way to earning the NFL's defensive-rookie-of-the-year award, while former Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford is a favorite to win the league's offensive-rookie-of-the-year award.

Bradford was the first player picked in the 2010 draft, Suh the second. If they were to win rookie-of-the-year honors, it would be only the second time in the common draft era, dating from 1967, that the top two picks were so honored, according to ESPN.com.

It happened in 1981, when South Carolina running back George Rogers was the No. 1 pick and North Carolina linebacker Lawrence Taylor was the No. 2 pick.

COACHES ALL BIG 12

Nebraska placed six players on the coaches' All-Big 12 first team, five of them on defense, including senior cornerback Prince Amukamara, the conference defensive player of the year, and junior linebacker Lavonte David, the conference newcomer of the year.

In addition, quarterback Taylor Martinez was named the conference offensive freshman of the year, but was not included on the first- or second-team offense.

Five players earned second-team recognition.

"I'm proud of all those guys," coach Bo Pelini said. "It's a team game, and there are a lot of people who put a lot of effort in, guys that weren't honored who I thought were deserving also...I just goes to show you we made some improvement. We did some good things as a football team this year."

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	Brandon Weeden (Jr.)	Oklahoma State
RB	Kendall Hunter (Sr.)	Oklahoma State
RB	DeMarco Murray (Sr.)	Oklahoma
FB	*Bryant Ward (Sr.)	Oklahoma State
WR	Ryan Broyles (Jr.)	Oklahoma
WR	Justin Blackmon (So.)	Oklahoma State
WR	Jeff Fuller (Jr.)	Texas A&M
TE	Michael Egniew (Jr.)	Missouri
OL	Ricky Henry (Sr.)	Nebraska
OL	*Nate Solder (Sr.)	Colorado
OL	Tim Barnes (Sr.)	Missouri
OL	Levy Adcock (Jr.)	Oklahoma State
OL	Eric Mensik (Sr.)	Oklahoma
PK	Dan Bailey (Sr.)	Oklahoma State
KR/PR	William Powell (Sr.)	Kansas State

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	Pierre Allen (Sr.)	Nebraska
DL	*Jared Crick (Jr.)	Nebraska
DL	Jeremy Beal (Sr.)	Oklahoma
DL	Aldon Smith (So.)	Missouri
DL	Sam Acho (Sr.)	Texas
LB	Lavonte David (Jr.)	Nebraska
LB	*Von Miller (Sr.)	Texas A&M
LB	Orie Lemon (Sr.)	Oklahoma State
DB	*Prince Amukamara (Sr.)	Nebraska
DB	Eric Hagg (Sr.)	Nebraska
DB	Quinton Carter (Sr.)	Oklahoma
DB	Jimmy Smith (Sr.)	Colorado
DB	Andrew McGee (Sr.)	Oklahoma State
P	Quinn Sharp (So.)	Oklahoma State
[*Repeat first-team selection]		

Second-team selections: senior Roy Helu, Jr. (RB), senior Niles Paul (WR, KR/PR), senior Alex Henery (PK, P), sophomore Cameron Meredith (DL), junior Alfonzo Dennard (DB). **Honorable mention:** Rex Burkhead (RB), Mike Caputo (OL), DeJon Gomes (DB), Taylor Martinez (QB), Baker Steinkuhler (DL), Keith Williams (OL).

NO STEINKUHLER

Sophomore starting defensive tackle Baker Steinkuhler has been suspended and will not play in the Holiday Bowl game after receiving a DUI citation in Lincoln the week after the Big 12 Championship game. "I have met with Baker Steinkuhler and discussed the situation with him," coach Bo Pelini said in a statement. "He is a tremendous young man who made a mistake in judgment."

Further discipline would "be handled internally," Pelini's release said.

Big 12's All-Time Greats

Ndamukong Suh was named the top defensive player on the Associated Press all-time, All-Big 12 team, announced in late November. Suh was among four former Huskers on the team, joining center Dominic Raiola, guard Aaron Taylor and defensive lineman Grant Wistrom.

Former Texas quarterback Vince Young was named the top offensive player, meaning Heisman Trophy winning quarterbacks Eric Crouch, Jason White and Sam Bradford didn't make the team. Oklahoma's Bob Stoops was chosen as the top coach in the 15-year history of the conference.



THE REST OF THE OFFENSE:

Guards/Tackles – Jammal Brown (OU), Justin Blaylock (UT), Russell Okung (OSU);
Wide receivers – Michael Crabtree (TT), Rashaun Woods (OSU);
Tight end – Chase Coffman (MU);
Running backs – Ricky Williams (UT), Adrian Peterson (OU);
Kicker – Mason Crosby (CU).

THE REST OF THE DEFENSE:

Linemen – Tommie Harris (OU), Brian Orakpo (UT);
Linebackers – Derrick Johnson (UT), Dat Nguyen (A&M), Rocky Calmus (OU), Teddy Lehman (OU);
Defensive backs – Roy Williams (OU), Terence Newman (KSU), Derrick Strait (OU), Michael Huff (UT);
Punter – Daniel Sepulveda.

HOLIDAY BOWL PREVIEW

In case you've forgotten, though you probably haven't, the first time Nebraska and Washington played in Seattle, things got out of hand for the Huskies during the third quarter. Less than 7 minutes into the second half, Nebraska led 49-21, on the way to a 56-21 victory.

The Cornhusker running game was hitting on all cylinders, with Taylor Martinez, Roy Helu, Jr. and Rex Burkhead all rushing for more than 100 yards and six touchdowns between them, while Washington quarterback Jake Locker, who went into the season a Heisman Trophy candidate, struggled.

Locker completed only 4-of-20 passes for 71 yards and one touchdown, with two interceptions.

Following a week off, the Huskies came back to win at USC, 32-31, before losing four of their next five games, the lone victory against Oregon State, 35-34 in double overtime.

Washington then lost three in a row to the best in the Pac-10, in ascending order – Arizona, Stanford and Oregon

– by a combined 138-30 before regrouping to win its final three and finish 6-6.

Washington was among only four Pac-10 teams that were bowl eligible, and two of the other three, Oregon and Stanford, earned BCS bowl bids. Oregon will play Auburn in the BCS national championship game at Glendale, Ariz., on Jan. 10, while Stanford will play Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl.

As was the case in Seattle, the Huskies to watch are:

JAKE LOCKER, QB, All-Pac-10 honorable mention, 179 completions in 316 passing attempts (56.6 percent) for 2,209 yards and 17 touchdowns with nine interceptions.

CHRIS POLK, RB, Second-team All-Pac-10, ranks 17th nationally in rushing with 226



PHOTOS BY AARON BABCOCK

carries for 1,238 yards (5.5) and eight touchdowns.

JERMAINE KEARSE, WR, Second-team All-Pac-10, 62 receptions for 1,001 yards and 12 touchdowns.

MASON FOSTER, OLB, First-team All-Pac-10, ranks second nationally in tackles, with 151, an average of 12.58 per game, including 11 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks.

NATE WILLIAMS, SS, Second-team All-Pac-10, 100 tackles.

VICTOR AIYEWA, OLB, 77 tackles, including a team-high 18 tackles for loss.

After losing to Oklahoma in

the Big 12 Championship game, the Huskies expected a bid from the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., with Iowa the likely opponent. But Missouri, which had a higher BCS ranking than the Huskies, got the Insight Bowl, and they got the Washington rematch in the same bowl in which they played Arizona a year ago. Coach Bo Pelini released a diplomatic statement after bowl bids were announced: "Our team has worked hard since the start of practice in August and are deserving of an enjoyable bowl experience and the opportunity to win the 11th."





N

Blue Springs



NEBRASKA FIRST played Notre Dame on Oct. 23, 1915, at Nebraska Field. The Cornhuskers won, 20-19, in large measure because of the efforts of Guy Chamberlin. Afterward, Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne, who had scouted him, said as much of the Husker known as "the Champ."

Chamberlin was born on a farm near Blue Springs, Neb., and began his collegiate career at Nebraska Wesleyan, where he played for two seasons before transferring. Nebraska players familiar with his talent had begun encouraging him to transfer while he was a Wesleyan freshman.

Chamberlin stood 6-foot-2 and weighed just over 190 pounds. He played both halfback and end for teams coached by Jumbo Stiehm. He was a two-time All-Missouri Valley Conference selection, the conference MVP both seasons in fact, and he earned All-America recognition his senior year from nationally prominent Walter Eckersall, who officiated games, as well as from the United Press.

Lincoln sports editor Cy Sherman, "father of the Cornhuskers" for giving them their nickname, wrote that he was the "most brilliant player ever developed in the annals of Missouri Valley football."

The "Stiehm Rollers" were a combined 15-0-1 during Chamberlin's two seasons, and he was the star player. He had touchdown runs of 95, 80, 70 and 58 yards as a junior. And He scored 16 touchdowns as a senior, including two against Notre Dame and four against Iowa in his final game.

The 1915 team was 8-0, with five shutouts, outscoring its opponents by a combined 282-39. As a result, Nebraska was among three teams considered for a berth in the second Rose Bowl game. Nebraska's Athletic Board met resistance from the university faculty, however, because post-season play represented an over-emphasis on athletics.

Even though there were no official national championships back then, Sherman wrote that Nebraska was the "champion football team of Uncle Sam's domain."

BLUE SPRINGS, NEB.

County: Gage

Population: 362

Distance from Lincoln: 47 miles

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

Guy Chamberlin, HB (1914-15)

DID YOU KNOW?

► Blue Springs and Wymore are a mile apart and promote themselves as the "twin cities of Southeast Nebraska." The communities are located on the Blue River, and Blue Springs gets its name from the springs that feed the river.

► The founders of Blue Springs built a toll bridge over the Blue River in an attempt to divert settlers from the Oregon Trail, according to Perkey's Nebraska Place Names.

► A dam and mill were built near Blue Springs in 1868. Its population was nearly 1,000 in 1890 but diminished as the Burlington & Missouri Railroad moved its business across the tracks to Wymore.

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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	11:30 am
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	7:00 pm
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Dec. 4	Oklahoma	Arlington Texas	7:00 pm
Thu, Dec 30	Washington	San Diego, Calif.	9:00 p.m.



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Big Ten Goes Bowling

Big Ten Conference sends record-tying eight schools to bowl games, including two BCS berths | TERRY DOUGLASS



The Big Ten Conference will be sending a record-tying eight teams to bowl games and have the maximum of two teams to Bowl Championship Series (BCS) bowls.

Michigan State (11-1, 7-1 Big Ten), Ohio State (11-1, 7-1) and Wisconsin (11-1, 7-1) each earned a share of the Big Ten championship and earned bids to play in January bowl games. The Badgers garnered the Big Ten's automatic bid to the BCS with the highest BCS ranking and will make their first appearance in the Jan. 1 Rose Bowl since 2000 when they face TCU. The Buckeyes also earned a BCS berth and will play in

the Jan. 4 Allstate Sugar Bowl against Arkansas.

Michigan State will play in the Jan. 1 Capital One Bowl for the second time in three seasons. The opponent for the Spartans will be 2009 national champion Alabama.

In addition, Penn State (7-5) was selected to play in the Jan. 1 Outback Bowl against Florida, Michigan (7-5) will play in the Jan. 1 Gator Bowl (Mississippi State), Iowa (7-5) will play in the Dec. 28 Insight Bowl (Missouri), Illinois (6-6) will play in the Dec. 29 Texas Bowl (Baylor) and Northwestern (7-5) will play in the Jan. 1 TicketCity Bowl (Texas Tech).

DON'T MISS

The Rose Bowl is known as "The Granddaddy of Them All" because it is the oldest bowl game, first played in 1902 and continuously since 1916. It has been the best-attended bowl game since 1945 and is a part of the Tournament of Roses, which bills itself as "America's New Year Celebration."

In the current BCS system, the Rose Bowl typically hosts the champions from Big Ten and Pac-10 conferences unless those teams are involved in the BCS national championship game. Due to an agreement that the Rose Bowl would host the highest BCS qualifier from a non-automatic qualifying conference if it lost one of its conference anchor teams to the national title game (Oregon), TCU was selected.



NEW HEAD COACH

Jerry Kill has been named as the new head coach at Minnesota, replacing the fired

Tim Brewster. Kill spent the past three seasons as head coach of Northern Illinois, going 23-16 and leading the Huskies to a 10-3 record and an appearance in the MAC Championship game.

BOWL FACTOIDS

THE BIG TEN'S eight bowl teams equals the conference record previously set in 2003 and matched in 2007. The 2010-11 bowl season will mark the sixth consecutive year that at least seven or more Big Ten schools have earned post-season bids.

TWO BIG TEN programs were selected for BCS games for the 10th time in the 13-year history of the system and the eighth time in the past nine seasons. The conference has made a record 23 BCS bowl appearances.

OHIO STATE will be making its league-high ninth BCS game appearance when it plays in the Allstate Sugar Bowl. Michigan (four) and Wisconsin (three) rank second and third, respectively, in BCS bids among Big Ten programs.

THE BUCKEYES will be playing in their 42nd bowl game, which is a continuing Big Ten Conference record. Ohio State has made 11 consecutive bowl appearances. Michigan is second in the Big Ten with 40 bowl-game appearances.

THE BIG TEN has produced a 30-33 all-time record in the Rose Bowl. All of those games but one – Michigan lost to Texas of the Big 12 Conference in 2005 (2004 season) – came against Pac-10 schools.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Watson continues to search for balanced attack

UNDER IDEAL circumstances, Shawn Watson wants to be married to an offensive system.

In that world, it'd be one that features an equal reliance on the run and the pass.

And yet, entering the 2010 bowl season, Nebraska had the worst such balance of any team in the Big 12 Conference, running the ball 69.4 percent of the time (593 out of 854 plays).

Why?

"It's just where we're at," Watson said. "It's about developing a young quarterback. We're developing (redshirted freshman) Taylor (Martinez) and also still developing (sophomore) Cody (Green)."

Let's face it. Both players are more blessed as runners than throwers. Nebraska also is much deeper at the I-back position than at receiver and has a wild card in I-back Rex Burkhead's ability to run things out of the Wildcat formation.

But if you look at the play selection in last week's Big 12 Championship loss to Oklahoma, you can see what Watson's talking about.

Martinez, still looking less than full-speed from ankle and turf-toe injuries suffered in the Missouri and Texas A&M contests, played the entire game, and Nebraska still ended up running the ball 60.6 percent of the time (43 out of 71 snaps). Had the Huskers had leading wide receiver Niles Paul available, they may have opted to be even more

balanced.

But when your offense is held to 293 yards like Nebraska's was against the Sooners, it leads to a lot of second-guessing about Watson's plan.

Watson understands that unless you've got the kind of unit that regularly cranks out 400-plus yards, the criticism is all a part of the deal.

"Everybody manages their situation. The objective is to manage wins and what it takes to win," he said. "Sometimes you have a quarterback who is ready, sometimes you don't (and) you try and protect him. Or you have injuries in key positions that handle the football, whether it be receiver or running back, whatever it is. You have to manage it."

Nebraska looks a ways away from being in a position where Watson can dial up a play and count on results. But the fourth-year coordinator is convinced the Huskers are getting closer.

The offensive line, which had a tough game against Oklahoma, has made enough strides in 2010 for NU to rank No. 10 nationally in rushing. Better depth is one reason for that, but a bigger one is that more of the starters remained relatively healthy as opposed to last season.

Nebraska's hope to achieve a more even run-pass ratio like Baylor (which has the Big 12's best this season at 439 rushes to 429 passes) or Texas A&M (490 to 479), hinges on the quarterbacks developing as passers, and the receiving

corps being strengthened.

The bottom line for this team, though, is that it's had the most success when it runs. In fact, all 10 times the Huskers have reached 200 yards rushing, they've won.

This is where one needs to be careful when judging play-calling.

Additionally, Watson has had to handle a delicate quarterback situation ever since Martinez sprained his ankle in the first half of the Missouri game.

"It's just part of the deal," Watson said. "It's that way everywhere. We work hard to put together plans. We don't worry about (any second-guessing). At least I don't. I could care less."

"I've always believed you have to tweak yourself to manage wins. We've been able to do that. Sometimes it hasn't been real pretty, but we've found a way to do it."

Might Nebraska one day become like Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma – the Big 12 teams this season that achieved balance by throwing the ball more than running it?

Hey, let's not get too carried away. But Watson's goal is for the Huskers to be just as comfortable throwing it as they are running.

"My whole nature's to be balanced," he said. "As we move along, and the quarterbacks develop, you'll see more balance." **N**

Editors note: Shawn Watson was a candidate for the head coaching position at Vanderbilt as this edition was going to press.

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5-10, 210, JR, I-BACK
AURORA, COLO.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Austin Jones

Impersonation and Five Other Things You Didn't Know

FALL FOOTBALL CAMP CAN BE A LONG, GRUELING MONTH. SO LIGHT-HEARTED MOMENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

That's why the video staff that films Nebraska's practices made a video of Austin Jones doing impersonations. The video was shown in the team auditorium after one of the August practices.

Team members saw Jones impersonate about a dozen coaches and players, including Eric Martin, Ron Brown, Tim Beck and Barney Cotton.

"It's usually something they'll say that's funny during practice or something, and then I'll catch it, and I'll somehow

memorize it and just do it," said Jones, who's never done theatre but said he's given it some thought.

Perfecting the person's voice is obviously a big part of Jones' talent, but he also notes certain gestures or actions and implements them into his act.

"I try to put that in there," he said. "I think that's what makes it the most fun."

His easiest impersonation?

"Probably coach Cotton," Jones said.

"He's just kind of animated.

His voice is real easy to get. Kind of low-pitched and loud."

And the most difficult?

"I'm still working on Coach (Marvin) Sanders. That's really hard. It'll come eventually. His voice is a little different, so I'm trying to get used to it."

Jones said he hasn't been on anyone's bad side for doing an impersonation. He knows the

appropriate time and place for a joke.

"I like to make people laugh," he said. "I do everything I can to be like the class clown."

1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED You're a half-brother to Menelik Holt (former NU receiver). How is he doing?

AUSTIN JONES He's doing good. He's just finishing up his degree. He still goes to UNL, hitting the books, trying to finish up.

2

HI How instrumental was he in your decision to come to Nebraska?

JONES He was a pretty big factor. His mom talked to me and said I should come here, that it would be a good fit for me, and it turns out, it was. And I've always liked the Huskers.

3

HI What will you miss the most about the Big 12?

JONES Playing Colorado, probably, because I'm from there. And I have friends on their team.

4

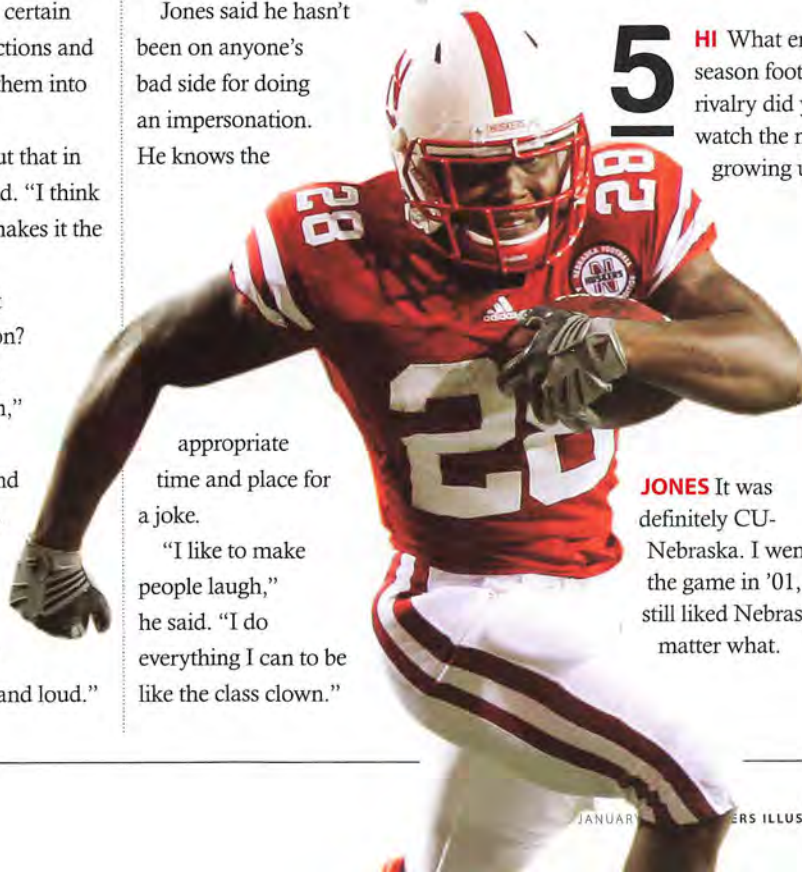
HI What's on your DVR?

JONES I'm kind of an MMA fan, UFC, so I pretty much record all the fights and stuff. I'm a huge MMA fan. I just started watching it. I used to wrestle in high school, and I heard that's a big transition. I think it's pretty interesting. I'm going to try it out somewhere down the line.

5

HI What end-of-season football rivalry did you watch the most growing up?

JONES It was definitely CU-Nebraska. I went to the game in '01, and I still liked Nebraska no matter what.





by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT

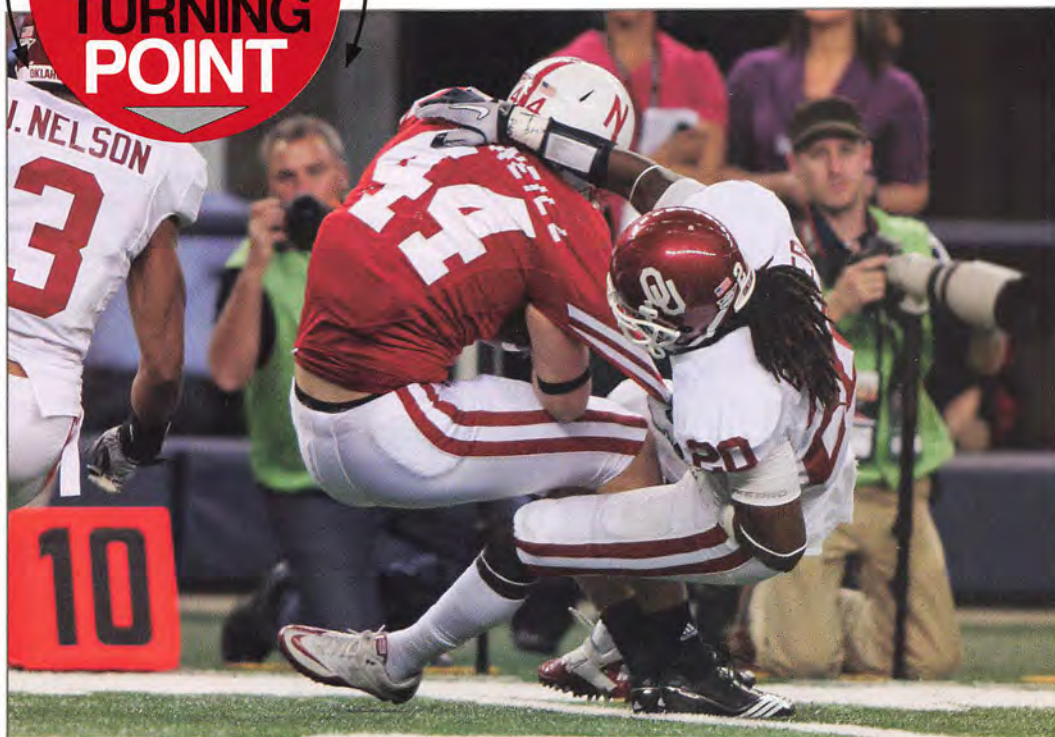


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

EARLY PICK STINGS LATE

LEADING 17-7 MIDWAY through the second quarter, Nebraska was in prime position to make things difficult for Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship game.

The Cornhuskers appeared to be well on their way to answering the Sooners' first touchdown drive. Nebraska used a 36-yard pass completion from quarterback Taylor Martinez to wide receiver Mike McNeill on a fourth-and-1 play to set up first-and-goal at the Oklahoma 9-yard line.

But after a 1-yard run by I-back Rex Burkhead and a Martinez incompletion, the Huskers faced third-and-goal from the Oklahoma 8. All but guaranteed at least three points on what would've amounted to a chip-shot field goal for second-team All-Big 12 place-kicker Alex Henery, Martinez dropped back to pass, scrambled to his right and then made an ill-advised throw back toward the middle of the end zone into heavy coverage.

Oklahoma's Travis Lewis was waiting. The junior linebacker came up with a key interception that helped the Sooners turn the tide in a 23-20 victory at Cowboys Stadium.

"They ran a route that we expected to come and

(we) kind of baited them into throwing it," Lewis said. "He threw across his body and these hands ain't what they used to be, but God gave me a gift and I caught it. It was a huge play."

It was a play that Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said Martinez should never have tried to make.

"When (Martinez) got caught in his scramble, he went to his primary and the check-down was eaten up in protection, so you want to scramble and throw it out of the end zone and live to see another day and take the points," Watson said. "That's just part of growing up as a quarterback."

Martinez's interception was the first of four Nebraska turnovers. The Huskers also lost three fumbles, helping Oklahoma overcome the second-largest deficit to win in Big 12 Championship game history.

"We put the football on the ground too many times," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "We lost the turnover battle and took some sacks in some big situations. We left some points out on the board. We didn't make enough plays as was necessary to win the game." **N**

by Terry Douglass

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

NOT SO MAGICAL

Rampant rumors that quarterback Taylor Martinez either had been suspended or was injured too badly to start the Big 12 Championship game against Oklahoma proved to be unfounded as the redshirted freshman started and played the entire way for Nebraska in its 23-20 loss at Cowboys Stadium.

"I knew who was going to play on Monday," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "I just didn't feel it was the right thing to share."

"(Martinez) had a good week of practice. He practiced all week and I didn't feel people were entitled to know he was going to start. Our football team knew he was going to start."

However, considering Martinez's performance against the Sooners, media questions in post-game interviews centered on whether or not the Cornhusker coaching staff should have

started and stuck with Martinez. He was 12-of-24 passing for 143 yards with a key interception and rushed 14 times for minus 32 yards, including seven sacks, and fumbled three times, losing one.

Despite being shut out in the second half, Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said he didn't second-guess the decision to stay with Martinez.

"We just felt like it was the right thing to do at the time," Watson said. "He's a young quarterback and we wanted to make sure that we showed our confidence in him."

"He struggled at times and did some good things at times, so it was a tough decision to make, but we felt it was the best thing to do for him and for us."

DUAL THREATS

Much of Nebraska's offensive success against Oklahoma came with its ground game. I-back Roy Helu, Jr. finished with

91 yards on 11 attempts, including a 66-yard touchdown run, while fellow I-back Rex Burkhead rushed 16 times for 90 yards and also had a 5-yard TD pass to tight end Kyler Reed, taking the snap in the Wildcat formation.

"I thought Rex played well," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "He did some good things."

Helu's 66-yard touchdown run in the first quarter tied for the longest scoring run in Big 12 championship game history.

"It was just really good blocking," Helu said of his TD run. "And I think Brandon (Kinnie) or one of the receivers made a really good block downfield. I didn't do too much."

No thanks to seven sacks, Nebraska finished with 145 yards net rushing against Oklahoma. It marked just the third time the Huskers have been held below 200 yards rushing this season.

GameNotes

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



TURN OF EVENTS

After being intercepted five times last season in a 10-3 loss at Nebraska, Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones completed 23-of-41 pass attempts for 342 yards and a TD against the Huskers in the Big 12 title game. He was intercepted just once and became the first player to account for more than 300 yards of total offense against the Blackshirts since Todd Reesing of Kansas in 2008.

"Nebraska has, obviously, a great defense," Jones said. "But we were fortunate enough to make a lot of plays on them."

Jones had a 49-yard TD pass to Kenny Stills to get Oklahoma on the scoreboard with 11:02 left in the first quarter. He also had a 1-yard scoring sneak, tying the game at 17-17 with 1:37 left in the first half.

"I thought Landry made some good throws," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "He's a good football player. He has some good weapons around him and he's going to make plays. You're not going to sit there and hold a football team with those weapons to zero points."

FUMBLER AWAY

Nebraska tied a Big 12 Championship game record with five fumbles and its three lost fumbles tied for second-most in the contest's 15-year history. The Huskers also had an interception, losing the turnover battle 4-1 to Oklahoma, which recovered all three of its fumbles.

NU quarterback Taylor Martinez fumbled three times, losing one. I-back Roy Helu Jr. lost a fumble and the Huskers were charged with a team fumble when I-back Rex Burkhead and Helu botched a handoff out of the wildcat formation.

"We put the football on the ground too many times," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "We lost the turnover battle and took some sacks in some big situations. We left some points out on the board. We didn't make enough plays as was necessary to win the game."

PERFECT IN POSTSEASON

Nebraska place-kicker Alex Henery scored eight points in the Big 12 Championship game to become Nebraska's all-time leading scorer. The senior now has 396 career points, moving past Kris Brown (1995-98) on the Huskers' all-time charts.

Henery's 53-yard first-quarter field goal against Oklahoma setting a Big 12 title game record, breaking his own mark of 52 yards set last season against Texas. Henery's 53-yarder was also the longest field goal made by a Nebraska player outside of Lincoln, surpassing his own record of 52 yards set earlier this season at Oklahoma State.

Henery is now 18-of-19 on field-goal attempts this season. He improved to 14-of-14 on field-goal tries in the post-season.

DISAPPOINTING DAY

With Nebraska making winning a Big 12 championship its goal in its final season before joining the Big Ten Conference, Huskers' coach Bo Pelini said his team's disappointment about coming up short a second consecutive season in the league title game should've been clear for all to see.

"It's pretty obvious what the level of disappointment is," Pelini said. "We came in here to win the Big 12 championship (and) we didn't get it done. The kids are hurting."

The loss dropped Nebraska to 2-4 in Big 12 Championship game appearances, including an 0-2 mark against Oklahoma. It was NU's third consecutive Big 12 title-game loss.

HURRY-UP NO FACTOR?

One week after running 107 plays from scrimmage in a win at Oklahoma State, Oklahoma's fast-paced offensive attack was limited to 79 plays in the Big 12 Championship game against Nebraska.

However, the Sooners were still effective, averaging 5.7 yards per play and gaining 454 total yards. Quarterback Landry Jones had 342 yards passing as the ring leader of Oklahoma's no-huddle, hurry-up offensive attack.

WORTH NOTING

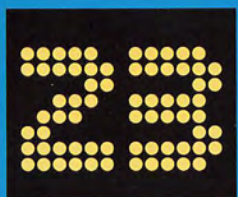
► Nebraska tight end Kyler Reed hauled in his seventh TD pass of the season, catching a 5-yard scoring toss from I-back Rex Burkhead in the first quarter against Oklahoma. Reed's seven TD receptions tied the school's single-season record for TD receptions by a tight end, sharing the mark with four other Huskers. The most recent was Gerald Armstrong in 1992.

► By rallying from a 20-17 halftime deficit to beat Nebraska, it marked just the second time in Bo Pelini's three-year career as the Huskers' head coach that his team had lost when leading at halftime. Pelini's NU teams are now 23-2 when leading at the intermission.



LAVONTE DAVID TIED A BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECORD WITH 17 TACKLES . PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Home or Away. Either way you're covered.



OKLAHOMA



NEBRASKA



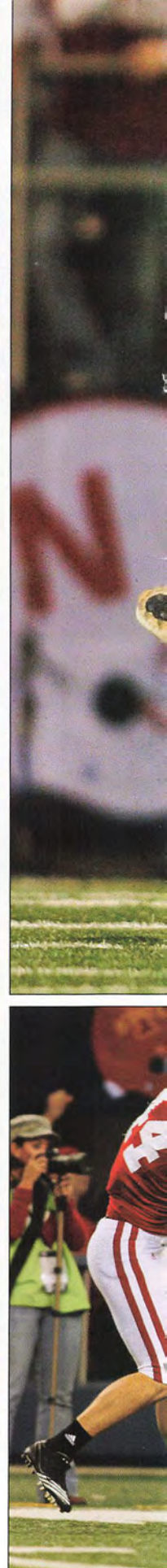
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Jared Crick stands over Oklahoma Landry Jones after one of his two sacks in the Big 12 Championship game. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 2) Roy Helu Jr. nearly loses his grip on the football. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 3) Rex Burkhead tries to hold onto a snap from the Wildcat. *Photo by Scott Bruhn.* 4) Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops yells at an official. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 5) Mike McNeill hauls in a four catches. *Photo by Aaron Babcock*







PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

LAVONTE DAVID

For the eighth time this season, junior linebacker Lavonte David finished with double-figure tackles. He was credited with a Big 12 championship game record-tying 17, including 11 during the first half. Texas A&M's Dat Nguyen had 17 tackles in the 1998 championship game. David increased his season's tackle total to 145, second all-time at Nebraska, behind Barrett Ruud's 149 (in 13 games) in 2003. Ruud also had been second on the Huskers' single-season list, with 143 in 2004. David's performance characterized the defense, which, "I thought, played well," coach Bo Pelini said.

Husker Report Card

RUSHING

First half or second? Lost yardage on sacks wasn't the only reason the Huskers managed on 15 yards on 20 carries during the second half. Plus, fumbles were an issue, with three-of-five lost.

C-

PASSING

Maybe a D is generous, given a game-changing interception in the end zone and seven quarterback sacks. There was enough blame to spread around in this area.

D

RUSHING DEFENSE

Oklahoma averaged only 2.9 yards per rush, enough said. The Sooners couldn't get anything going consistently on the ground.

A

PASSING DEFENSE

Make no mistake, Landry Jones is good. And "he has some good weapons around him," said Bo Pelini. "You're not going to sit there and hold the football team with those weapons to zero points."

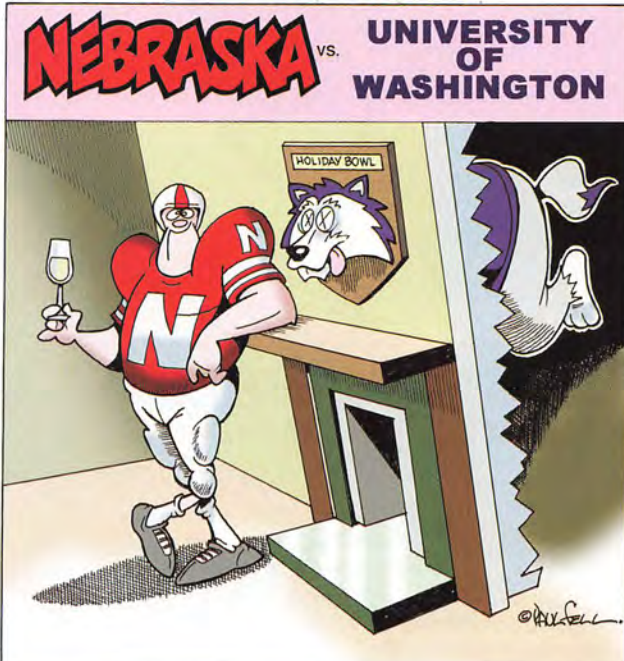
B-

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

Nebraska held its own in the kicking game. Four of Adi Kunalic's five kickoffs were touchbacks, and Alex Henery averaged 46 yards on eight punts as well as kicking field goals of 53 and 42 yards. And he wasn't the first-team All-Big 12 kicker?

A

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



DECEMBER 30, 2010
HUSKERS AND HUSKIES MEET AGAIN, THIS TIME IN THE HOLIDAY BOWL, BUT RESULTS ARE THE SAME!

QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock



Mike Babcock



Terry Douglass



Kevin Kugler



Sean Callahan



Matt Davison

(Season, Last Week)

(73-31, 5-3)

(76-28, 6-2)

(73-31, 5-3)

(75-29, 4-4)

(73-31, 6-2)

(76-28, 5-3)

Nebraska vs. Washington	NU 28-14	NU 34-14	NU 30-17	NU 31-17	NU 31-20	NU 34-13
Oregon vs. Auburn	AUB 42-33	ORE 38-35	AUB 38-35	AUB 41-35	AUB 41-40	ORE 42-35
Ohio State vs. Arkansas	OSU 31-21	OSU 31-28	OSU 21-17	OSU 31-28	OSU 34-27	OSU 31-24
Stanford vs. Virginia Tech	STAN 42-21	STAN 41-27	STAN 27-14	STAN 31-17	STAN 37-29	STAN 31-21
UConn vs. Oklahoma	OU 45-10	OU 45-13	OU 40-21	OU 41-21	OU 45-17	OU 37-17
Wisconsin vs. TCU	TCU 35-28	TCU 21-20	UW 17-14	UW 41-31	UW 27-21	UW 27-21
LSU vs. Texas A&M	LSU 21-20	LSU 17-13	LSU 33-10	LSU 28-17	A&M 23-20	LSU 24-17
Missouri vs. Iowa	MU 35-21	MU 28-21	IOWA 28-14	MU 31-28	MU 38-27	IOWA 24-20

SUMMARY

SCORING

December 4, 2010
Cowboys Stadium, Arlington, Texas
Attendance: 78,802

	1	2	3	4	F
OKLAHOMA	0	17	3	3	23
NEBRASKA	10	10	0	0	20

	OU	NU
First Quarter		
NU 8:39 - Roy Helu Jr. 66 yd run	0	7
Drive: 1 play, 66 yards, 0:11		
NU 6:11 - Alex Henery 53 yd. field goal	0	10
Drive: 4 plays, 6 yards, 1:24		
Second Quarter		
NU 12:14 - Kyle Reed 5 yd pass (Burkhead)	0	17
Drive: 2 plays, 12 yards, 1:14		
OU 11:02 - Kenny Stills 49 yd pass (Jones)	7	17
Drive: 4 plays, 80 yards, 1:12		
OU 2:35 - Jimmy Stevens 26 yd. field goal	10	17
Drive: 12 plays, 71 yards, 4:24		
OU 1:37 - Landry Jones 1 yd run	17	17
Drive: 2 plays, 31 yards, 0:21		
NU 0:06 - Alex Henery 42 yd. field goal	17	20
Drive: 10 plays, 56 yards, 1:31		
Third Quarter		
OU 7:04 - Jimmy Stevens 20 yd. field goal	20	20
Drive: 8 plays, 59 yards, 2:04		
Fourth Quarter		
OU 8:28 - Jimmy Stevens 27 yd. field goal	23	20
Drive: 11 plays, 55 yards, 3:03		

TEAM STATS

	OU	NU
FIRST DOWNS	19	13
NET YARDS RUSHING	112	145
Rushing Attempts	38	43
Average Per Rush	2.9	3.4
Yards Gained Rushing	139	214
Yards Lost Rushing	27	69
NET YARDS PASSING	342	148
Completions-Attempts-Int	23-41-1	13-28-1
Average Per Attempt	8.3	5.3
Average Per Completion	14.9	11.4
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	454	293
Total offense plays	79	71
Average Gain Per Play	5.7	4.1
Fumbles: Number-Lost	3-0	5-3
Penalties: Number-Yards	6-47	3-15
PUNTS-YARDS	7-315	8-368
Average Yards Per Punt	45.0	46.0
Net Yards Per Punt	37.7	43.2
Inside 20	0	3
50+ Yards	2	3
Touchbacks	1	0
Fair catch	2	3
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD.	5-22-0	3-31-0
Average Per Return	4.4	10.3
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-25-0	4-66-0
Average Per Return	25.0	16.5
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-0-0	1-33-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	28:00	32:00
Third-Down Conversions	1 of 16	4 of 17
Fourth-Down Conversions	2 of 4	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-5	1-2
Touchdowns	1-5	1-2
Field goals	3-5	0-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	7-48	2-22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Helu Jr.	11	102	11	91	8.3	1	66
Burkhead	16	92	2	90	5.6	0	25
TEAM	2	0	4	-4	-2.0	0	0
Martinez	14	20	52	-32	-2.3	0	6
TOTAL	43	214	69	145	3.4	1	66

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	24	12	50.0	1	143	0	36
TEAM	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Burkhead	2	1	50.0	0	5	1	5
TOTAL	28	13	46.4	1	148	1	36

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
McNeill	4	63	0	36
Reed	3	41	1	20
Broekemeier	3	15	0	8
Kinnie	2	18	0	12
Burkhead	1	11	0	11
TOTAL	13	148	1	36

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Burkhead	2	14	0	15
Marlowe	1	17	0	17
TOTAL	3	31	0	17

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Marlowe	4	66	0	22

INT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Osborne	1	33	0	33

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	50+	IN20
Henery	8	46.0	58	3	3

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	2	2	53	0

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
Kunalic	5	70.0	4	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
David	11	6	17	--	--	--	--	--
Amukamara	8	0	8	--	--	--	--	--
Hagg	7	1	8	--	--	--	1	--
Allen	3	3	6	--	--	--	--	--
Meredith	2	4	6	--	--	--	--	--
Dennard	4	0	4	--	--	--	--	--
Gomes	3	1	4	--	--	1	--	--
Osborne	1	3	4	--	--	--	--	--
Cassidy	2	1	3	--	--	--	--	--
Crick	2	1	3	2-22	2.0-22	--	--	--
Steinkuler	2	1	3	--	--	1	--	--
Grove	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Williams	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Ankrah	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--

OKLAHOMA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Murray	17	68	0	68	4.0	0	12
Finch	8	37	0	37	4.6	0	19
Madu	3	12	0	12	4.0	0	6
Franks	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
Jones	6	19	22	-3	-0.5	1	15
Team	3	0	5	-5	-1.7	0	0
TOTAL	38	139	27	112	2.9	1	19

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Jones	41	23	56.1	1	342	1	49

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Kenney	6	65	0	23
Murray	5	60	0	19
Stills	3	83	1	49
Broyles	3	61	0	47
Hanna	3	33	0	20
Madu	1	15	0	15
Ratterree	1	15	0	15
Finch	1	10	0	10
TOTAL	23	342	1	49

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Broyles	5	22	0	17

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Madu	1	25	0	25

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	50+	IN20
Way	7	45.0	55	2	0

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Stevens	3	4	27	0

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
O'Hara	6	65.2	2	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
Nelson	5	6	11	1-2	--	--	--	--
Lewis	4	3	7	1-5	1.0-5	1	--	--
Carter	3	4	7	--	--	--	--	--
Box	4	2	6	2-3	--	--	--	1
Lewis	4	2	6	--	--	1	--	2
Alexander	3	3	6	5-15	2.0-13	--	1	--
Beal	2	4	6	--	--	--	--	--
Macon	5	0	5	5-24	3.0-21	--	2	--
Hurst	4	1	5	--	--	1	1	--
Jefferson	2	1	3	1-9	1.0-9	--	--	--
Harris	2	1	3	--	--	--	--	--
Ibiloye	1	1	2	1-1	--	--	--	--
Nelson	0	2	2	--	--	--	--	--
Hanna	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Fleming	1	0	1	1-1	--	2	--	--
Mcgee	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Broyles	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Millard	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Colvin	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--

SeasonStats

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
SCORING	425	224
Points Per Game	32.7	17.2
FIRST DOWNS	240	217
Rushing	143	92
Passing	88	98
Penalty	9	27
RUSHING YARDAGE	3375	1876
Yards gained rushing	3691	2185
Yards lost rushing	316	309
Rushing Attempts	593	498
Average Per Rush	5.7	3.8
Average Per Game	259.6	144.3
TDs Rushing	32	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2010	2079
Comp-Att-Int	153-261-7	184-371-19
Average Per Pass	7.7	5.6
Average Per Catch	13.1	11.3
Average Per Game	154.6	159.9
TDs Passing	15	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	5385	3955
Total Plays	854	869
Average Per Play	6.3	4.6
Average Per Game	414.2	304.2
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	35-814	43-1023
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	23-297	26-264
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	19-313	7-37
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.3	23.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	12.9	10.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.5	5.3
FUMBLES-LOST	42-15	16-4
PENALTIES-Yard	97-891	60-522
Average Per Game	68.5	40.2
PUNTS-Yards	63-2763	85-3629
Average Per Punt	43.9	42.7
Net punt average	38.1	37.6
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	31:27	28:33
3RD-DOWN Conversions	75/178	56/192
3rd-Down Pct	42%	29%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	7/11	6/15
4th-Down Pct	64%	40%
SACKS BY-Yards	31-242	24-152
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	53	24
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	18-19	19-24
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-1	0-3
RED-ZONE SCORES	(34-40) 85%	(31-35) 89%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(26-40) 65%	(16-35) 46%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(53-53) 100%	(23-23) 100%
ATTENDANCE	599,648	321,064
Games/Avg Per Game	7/85,664	5/64,213
Neutral Site Games	1/78,802	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Helu Jr.	177	1252	41	1211	6.8	11	73
Martinez	148	1129	187	942	6.4	12	80
Burkhead	160	934	22	912	5.7	7	33
Green	34	121	23	98	2.9	1	22
Robinson	24	77	10	67	2.8	0	7
Jones	14	58	0	58	4.1	1	9
Lee	15	57	0	57	3.8	0	9
Henery	1	27	0	27	27.0	0	27
Paul	5	18	4	14	2.8	0	8
Marlowe	2	14	0	14	7.0	0	13
Ward	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Okafor	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Team	11	0	29	-29	-2.6	0	0
TOTAL	593	3691	316	3375	5.7	32	80
OPP	498	2185	309	1876	3.8	11	46

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	187	109	58.3	6	1578	9	79
Green	48	30	62.5	1	295	3	33
Lee	20	11	55.0	0	102	0	24
Burkhead	4	3	75.0	0	35	3	26
Team	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	261	153	58.6	7	2010	15	79
OPP	371	184	49.6	19	2079	13	80

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Kinnie	42	473	5	55
Paul	39	516	1	33
Reed	20	364	7	79
McNeill	18	313	1	64
Burkhead	13	136	0	31
Broekemeier	6	49	0	17
Helu Jr.	5	46	0	14
Cotton	3	34	0	22
Henry	2	32	0	24
Long	1	17	0	17
Hill	1	11	0	11
Enunwa	1	10	0	10
Robinson	1	8	0	8
Legate	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	153	2010	15	79
OPP	184	2079	13	80

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	14	160	0	31
Burkhead	5	26	0	15
Marlowe	3	16	0	17
Hagg	1	95	1	95
TOTAL	23	297	1	95
OPP	26	264	0	24

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	16	403	1	100
Marlowe	12	265	0	42
Kinnie	6	142	0	39
Cotton	1	4	0	4
TOTAL	35	814	1	100
OPP	43	1023	0	52

FUMBLE RETURN	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Gomes	1	19	0	19
TOTAL	1	19	0	19
OPP	1	11	0	11

INT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Hagg	5	37	0	26
Dennard	4	31	1	31
Smith	3	46	0	29
Gomes	3	67	1	40
Osborne	1	33	0	33
West	1	23	0	23
Thenarse	1	47	1	47
Cassidy	1	29	1	29
TOTAL	19	313	4	47
OPP	7	37	0	14

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	FC	IN20
Henery	63	43.9	69	13	26
TOTAL	63	43.9	69	13	26
OPP	85	42.7	78	19	19

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
Kunalic	83	68.8	39	1
TOTAL	83	68.8	39	1
OPP	50	63.0	13	0

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	18	19	53	1

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
David	77	68	145	14-59	6.0-50	10	--	--
Gomes	48	45	93	4-10	1.0-6	7	2	1
Crick	29	34	63	16-91	9.5-87	2	1	0
Meredith	32	28	60	8-12	1.5-5	1	--	--
Amukamara	36	22	58	1-9	1.0-9	13	--	--
Allen	18	39	57	10-25	3.5-21	2	1	1
Steinkuler	15	31	46	4-30	3.5-30	2	--	--
Hagg	36	10	46	3-6	1.0-1	4	1	1
Cassidy	20	21	41	--	--	--	1	--
Smith	17	21	38	--	--	1	--	--
Osborne	17	18	35	5-17	1.0-11	--	--	--
Thenarse	13	21	34	1-0	--	1	1	--
Dennard	16	11	27	--	--	6	1	--
Martin	10	14	24	--	--	--	--	--
Moore	4	10	14	3-19	1.0-13	1	--	1
Williams	4	8	12	--	--	--	1	--
Stoddard	4	8	12	--	--	--	--	--
Compton	5	7	12	1-2	1.0-2	--	--	--
West	8	3	11	--	--	1	--	--
Whaley	6	3	9	1-1	--	--	--	--
May	5	4	9	--	--	--	--	--
Evans	5	3	8	--	--	2	--	--
Thorell	4	3	7	--	--	--	--	--
Randle	2	4	6	--	--	--	--	--
Martin	2	3	5	--	--	--	--	--
Dean	4	1	5	--	--	--	--	--
Ebke	2	3	5	--	--	--	--	--
Blatchford	2	3	5	--	--	--	--	--
Grove	3	2	5	--	--	--	--	--
Moravec	3	1	4	--	--	--	--	--
Reed	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
McNeill	--	2	2	--	--	--	--	--
Hill	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Ankrah	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Paul	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Henery	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Kunalic	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Thomsen	1	--	1	1-7	1.0-7	--	--	--
Green	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Henry	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Mangieri	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--



CATCHING UP WITH

Mark Munford

'86 CAPTAIN RETURNS TO LOCKERROOM FOR CU GAME

THERE WAS A FAMILIAR face in the Husker locker room before, during and after Nebraska's nationally televised game against Colorado.

Jeff Jamrog, Nebraska's first-team Academic All-America defensive end in 1987, knew just the guy to invite into the inner sanctum of the final conference game between these two teams – a Littleton, Colo., High School graduate who became one of the Huskers' most productive Blackshirts ever.

Jamrog knows a motivator when he's played with one, so Nebraska's Assistant Athletic Director for Football Operations invited Marc Munford to be a guest coach.

The NU-CU regular-season farewell to the Big 12 seemed like the perfect time for a legendary linebacker to rub elbows with Blackshirts who are living up to the reputation and tradition that Munford helped build a quarter century earlier.

All Munford did in 1984, '85 and '86 was lead the team in tackles for three consecutive years, make first-team All-Big Eight three straight times and become a member of the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame a decade after he was drafted by the Denver Broncos.

Munford has achieved a lot of personal goals in his athletic and business career, but one still-haunting failure was losing to Colorado when he captained the Blackshirts his

senior season.

CU's 20-10 upset of the Huskers in 1986 was the Buffs' first win over Nebraska in 26 years in Boulder and their first victory over the Huskers overall since 1967.

"That was a nightmare I will always have to live with," Munford said. "We didn't get done what we needed to get done."

Fortunately, because Nebraska measured its success in all games instead of just the "designated rival" game that Colorado had declared back in the 1980s, the Huskers still accomplished as seniors in '86 what they accomplished as sophomores in '84 – another 10-2 season that ended with another lopsided win over LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

Looking back over a career that also included a Fiesta Bowl as a junior against Michigan and 48 games in four years with the Broncos, Munford can't fault anything about his decision to choose Nebraska over other Big Eight recruiters. He's also glad he decided to concentrate on football instead of entertain offers from such collegiate baseball powers as Arizona State, Wichita State and San Diego State.

"Once I took my trip to Nebraska, I committed because I knew Nebraska had what no else had – a national program and everything a student-athlete could want – tradition, facilities, the best fan base in the country and the best support system anywhere," he said.

Munford used those resources to build a solid career after playing in the NFL. He is now vice president of a public finance division for Ameritas, where he oversees municipal underwriting for one of Nebraska's largest insurance and investment companies.

by Randy York



New Mexico

Albuquerque, N.M.
Dec. 18, 1 p.m. CST
ESPN

BYU

(6-6, 5-3 MWC)

UTEP

(6-6, 3-5 C-USA)



Humanitarian

Boise, Idaho
Dec. 18, 4:30 p.m. CST,
ESPN

Northern Illinois

(10-3, 8-0 MAC)

Fresno State

(8-4, 5-3 WAC)



New Orleans

New Orleans
Dec. 18, 8 p.m. CST
ESPN

Ohio

(8-4, 6-2 MAC)

Troy

(7-5, 6-2 Sun Belt)



St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg, Fla.
Dec. 21, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Southern Miss

(8-4, 5-3 C-USA)

Louisville

(6-6, 3-4 Big East)



Las Vegas

Las Vegas
Dec. 22, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Utah

(10-2, 7-1, MWC)

Boise State

(11-1, 7-1 WAC)



Poinsettia

San Diego
Dec. 23, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Navy

(8-3)

SDSU

(8-4, 5-3 MWC)



Hawaii

Honolulu
Dec. 24, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Hawaii

(10-3, 7-1 WAC)

Tulsa

(9-3, 6-2 C-USA)



Little Caesars

Detroit
Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Florida Int'l

(6-6, 6-2 Sun Belt)

Toledo

(8-4, 7-1 MAC)



Independence

Shreveport, La.
Dec. 27, 4 p.m. CST
ESPN2

Air Force

(8-4, 5-3 MWC)

Georgia Tech

(6-6, 4-4 ACC)



Champs Sports

Orlando, Fla.
Dec. 28, 5:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

West Virginia

(9-3, 5-2 Big East)

NC State

(8-4, 5-3 ACC)



Insight

Tempe, Ariz.
Dec. 28, 9 p.m. CST
ESPN

Missouri

(10-2, 6-2 Big 12)

Iowa

(7-5, 4-4 Big Ten)



Military

Washington D.C.
Dec. 29, 1:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

East Carolina

(6-6, 5-3 C-USA)

Maryland

(8-4, 5-3 ACC)



Texas

Houston
Dec. 29, 5 p.m. CST
ESPN

Illinois

(6-6, 4-4 Big Ten)

Baylor

(7-5, 4-4 Big 12)



Alamo

San Antonio
Dec. 29, 8:15 p.m. CST
ESPN

Oklahoma State

(10-2, 6-2 Big 12)

Arizona

(7-5, 4-5 Pac-10)



Armed Forces

Dallas
Dec. 30, 11 p.m. CST
ESPN

Army

(6-5)

SMU

(7-6, 6-2 C-USA)



Pinstripe

Bronx, NY
Dec. 30, 2:20 p.m. CST
ESPN

Kansas State

(7-5, 3-5 Big 12)

Syracuse

(7-5, 4-3 Big East)



Music City

Nashville, Tenn.
Dec. 30, 5:40 p.m. CST
ESPN

North Carolina

(7-5, 4-4 ACC)

Tennessee

(6-6, 3-5 SEC)



Holiday

San Diego
Dec. 30, 9 p.m. CST
ESPN

Nebraska

(10-3, 6-2 Big 12)

Washington

(6-6, 5-4 Pac-10)



Meineke Car Care

Charlotte, N.C.
Dec. 31, 11 p.m. CST
ESPN

South Florida
(7-5, 3-4 Big East)

Clemson
(6-6, 4-4 ACC)



Hyundai Sun

El Paso, Texas
Dec. 31, 1 p.m. CST
CBS

Notre Dame
(7-5)

Miami
(7-5, 5-3 ACC)



Liberty

Memphis, Tenn.
Dec. 31, 2:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Georgia
(6-6, 3-5 SEC)

Central Florida
(10-3, 7-1 C-USA)



Chick-fil-A

Atlanta
Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

South Carolina
(9-4, 5-3 SEC)

Florida State
(9-4, 6-2 ACC)



TicketCity

Dallas
Jan. 1, 11 p.m. CST
ESPNU

Northwestern
(7-5, 3-5 Big Ten)

Texas Tech
(7-5, 3-5 Big 12)



Outback

Tampa, Fla.
Jan. 1, 12 p.m. CST
ABC

Florida
(7-5, 4-4 SEC)

Penn State
(7-5, 4-4 Big Ten)



Capital One

Orlando, Fla.
Jan. 1, 12 p.m. CST
ESPN

Alabama
(9-3, 5-3 SEC)

Michigan State
(11-1, 7-1 Big Ten)



Gator

Jacksonville, Fla.
Jan. 1, 12:30 p.m. CST
ESPN2

Mississippi State
(8-4, 4-4 SEC)

Michigan
(7-5, 3-5 Big Ten)



Rose

Pasadena, Calif.
Jan. 1, 4 p.m. CST
ESPN

Wisconsin
(11-1, 7-1 Big Ten)

TCU
(12-0, 8-0 MWC)



Fiesta

Glendale, Ariz.
Jan. 1, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

UConn
(8-4, 5-2 Big East)

Oklahoma
(11-2, 6-2 Big 12)



Orange

Miami
Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Stanford
(11-1, 8-1 Pac-10)

Virginia Tech
(11-2, 8-0 ACC)



Sugar

New Orleans
Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Ohio State
(11-1, 7-1 Big Ten)

Arkansas
(10-2, 6-2 SEC)



GoDaddy.com

Mobile, Ala.
Jan. 6, 7 p.m. CST
ESPN

Middle Tennessee
(6-6, 5-3 Sun Belt)

Miami (OH)
(9-4, 7-1 MAC)



Cotton

Arlington, Texas
Jan. 7, 7 p.m. CST
FOX

LSU
(10-2, 6-2 SEC)

Texas A&M
(9-3, 6-2 Big 12)



BBVA Compass

Birmingham, Ala.
Jan. 8, 11 p.m. CST
ESPN

Pittsburgh
(7-5, 5-2 Big East)

Kentucky
(6-6, 2-6 SEC)



Kraft Fight Hunger

San Francisco
Jan. 9, 8 p.m. CST
ESPN

Nevada
(12-1, 7-1 WAC)

Boston College
(7-5, 4-4 ACC)



BCS National Championship

Glendale, Ariz.
Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m. CST
ESPN

Oregon
(12-0, 9-0 Pac-10)

Auburn
(13-0, 8-0 SEC)

IN THE Red Zone

ROY HELU JR.

rushing
excellence



During the news conference on the Tuesday before the opening game against Western Kentucky, Cornhusker coach Bo Pelini was asked if he thought the running game was being overlooked because of the focus on the quarterback competition between Taylor Martinez, Zac Lee and Cody Green.

"I hope not because that's the first thing we want to be able to do is run the football," Pelini replied. "You have to be able to run the football

consistently to win championships. I firmly believe that.

"But I also believe that you have to be multiple. You have to be able to execute in all facets of the game. But if anybody's overlooking the running game, I promise you, it's not from the offices downstairs. That's something that's always going to be an emphasis for us."

That emphasis has produced the desired results. Nebraska finished the regular season ranked 10th nationally in rushing offense,

despite struggling to run the ball consistently, as well as pass it, in the Big 12 Championship game. Fumbles and sacks contributed significantly to the problem.

In any case, the Huskers have averaged 259.62 rushing yards per game this season to lead the Big 12 – their best since 2002, when Frank Solich's next-to-last team averaged 268.7 rushing yards.

Pelini's first two teams averaged 169.8 and 147.1 rushing yards, respectively.

ROY'S CLOSING IN

Senior I-back Roy Helu, Jr. needs 88 rushing yards against Washington to move into the Huskers' all-time, single-season top 10.

PLAYER	RUSH-YDS	TD	GMS
Mike Rozier (1983)	275-2,148	29	12
Ahman Green (1997)	278-1,877	22	12
Lawrence Phillips (1994)	286-1,722	16	12
Rozier (1982)	242-1,689	15	12
Ken Clark (1988)	232-1,497	12	12
Jammal Lord (2002)	251-1,412	8	14
Bobby Reynolds (1950)	193-1,342	19	9
Derek Brown (1991)	230-1,313	14	11
Isaiah Hipp (1977)	197-1,301	10	11
Dahrran Diedrick (2001)	233-1,299	15	11
ROY HELU, JR. (2010)	177-1,211	11	13

DOUBLE (OR TRIPLE) 1,000

Taylor Martinez and Rex Burkhead are both within reach of 1,000 rushing yards this season.

Martinez has rushed for 942, Burkhead 912. Should either get there in the Holiday Bowl game against Washington, Nebraska would have two 1,000-yard rushers in the same season for only the fourth time. The Huskers have never had three 1,000-yard rushers in the same season.

1992

Calvin Jones (11 games)	168-1,210	14 TD
Derek Brown (10)	169-1,011	4 TD

1997

Ahman Green (12)	278-1,877	22 TD
Scott Frost (12)	176-1,095	19 TD

2001

Dahrran Diedrick (11)	233-1,299	15 TD
Eric Crouch (12)	203-1,115	18 TD

2010

Roy Helu, Jr. (13)	177-1,211	11 TD
Taylor Martinez (12)	148-942	12 TD
Rex Burkhead (13)	160-912	7 TD

RUSHING TRADITION

Tom Osborne's teams set the standard for rushing, of course. During his final 20 seasons (1978-97), as his offense evolved and moved toward the option, the Huskers led the nation in rushing 11 times, ranked second four times, third four times and fourth once.

1978 (2)	337.1	1988 (1)	382.3
1979 (3)	345.1	1989 (1)	375.3
1980 (1)	378.3	1990 (2)	340.0
1981 (2)	330.5	1991 (1)	353.2
1982 (1)	394.3	1992 (1)	328.2
1983 (1)	401.7	1993 (3)	287.9
1984 (3)	311.1	1994 (1)	340.0
1985 (1)	374.3	1995 (1)	399.8
1986 (2)	305.5	1996 (4)	291.9
1987 (3)	373.5	1997 (1)	392.6



ALSO BEST IN THE NATION

In addition to leading the nation 11 times under Osborne, Nebraska led the nation in rushing twice during Bob Devaney's 11 seasons as coach and twice during Frank Solich's six seasons. Solich's teams never ranked lower than seventh nationally in rushing offense.

[Devaney]		[Solich]	
1963 (1)	262.4	2000 (1)	349.3
1965 (1)	290.0	2001 (1)	314.7

Under Bill Callahan, the offense became much more pass-oriented, of course, and in 2005, the Huskers averaged only 96 rushing yards per game, the lowest average in modern school history.

Nebraska picks up No. 18

With pledge of 16-year-old Mordi Price, Cornhuskers jump to No. 7 in team recruiting rankings | SEAN STEVENS

GIVENS MORDI PRICE



COMING INTO his official visit for the Colorado game, NU safety commitment Daimion Stafford (6-1, 210) of Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., was planning a trip to Florida. That all changed after spending time with his future coaches.

"I'm not going to go to Florida [now]. It's just the coaches. They stayed loyal to me and I'm going to stay loyal to them. I'm a Cornhusker."

Stafford's teammate, defensive end Joseph Carter (6-5, 250), also made the trip. Carter is an Arizona commit, but was left with a lot to consider after his time at Nebraska.

"That's just a verbal

to Arizona; now I don't know," Carter said. "I'm kind of thinking right now. They've (the Huskers) got things set up academically and things that will help you get a job and get something out of life. They just have people that are going to help. It's more than just football there."

Newest commit

Nebraska OL target Givens Mordi Price (6-4, 278) committed to Rice this past summer, but that didn't stop him from making an official visit to Nebraska in late September. After that visit he remained a Rice pledge, but was intrigued by his time in Lincoln. That intrigue led Price to decommit from Rice in

early December.

The day after Nebraska's Big Twelve Championship Game loss to Oklahoma, Price became a Husker after an in-home visit with NU's linebacker coach Mike Ekeler.

Price made the switch because, "it's a great football team, great educational school, and a great coaching staff" as part of his decision.

With Price becoming commitment No. 18, Nebraska moved up to No. 7 in Rivals' team recruiting rankings.

Iowa juniors

Also during Colorado weekend, Nebraska hosted two of the top juniors in Iowa unofficially, athletes Amara Darboh (6-2, 190) of West Des Moines and Charles Rogers (6-2, 180) of Iowa City.

Darboh has offers from Iowa, Iowa State, Notre Dame and Wisconsin while Rogers has an offer from Iowa State and attended six Iowa home games this fall. The two are close and plan to take in some camps together this summer.

COMMIT Q&A



NIKLAS SADE

At a glance: Raleigh (N.C.) Wakefield High's Niklas Sade, a Nebraska commit, was recently chosen

to kick in the 2011 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Sade in this week's commit spotlight.

SEAN CALLAHAN: You were born in Germany and lived there until you were 9. How much football did you follow during that time?

SADE: I didn't really start following football until middle school. A lot of my friends all played football and they talked me into it.

CALLAHAN: How good is your German these days? Do you speak German at home with your family?

SADE: It's still pretty good. We speak it at home so we don't lose it.

CALLAHAN: What's the best German dish your family makes at home?

SADE: I don't know, I would say I'm more of a steak kind of guy now. It's hard to go back.

CALLAHAN: When did you know you could become a big-time kicker?

SADE: I started off playing soccer, then I played wide receiver and kicker in football. In the summer of 9th and 10th grade when I was told I was going to start on the varsity, I started getting serious about it. Then going into my junior year that summer I realized I could make it at the Division I level.

CALLAHAN: What's the longest field goal you've ever made?

SADE: In practice 62 yards and in a game 45 yards is the longest I've gotten to try.

CALLAHAN: How did you even first hear about Nebraska out of North Carolina?

SADE: A local newspaper wrote an article about me, and I started sending it out to different schools. I sent it to Nebraska and I sent them my film, and they told me to come out to their game a week later, and that's kind of how it started.

2011 Husker Commit List (18)

- ★★★ **TAARIQ ALLEN**, WR, 6-3, 191, Weston, Mass. (Rivers)
- ★★ **AARYN BOUZOS**, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ **DANIEL DAVIE**, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ **AARON GREEN**, RB, 5-11, 191, San Antonio, Texas (James Madison)
- ★★★★ **CHARLES JACKSON**, CB, 5-11, 180, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- ★★★★ **RYAN KLACHKO**, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ **TEVIN MITCHEL**, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ **TYLER MOORE**, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★ **GIVENS MORDI PRICE**, OL, 6-4, 278, Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
- ★★★ **MAX PIRMAN**, LB, 6-5, 218, Orville, Ohio (Orville)
- ★★★★ **RYNE REEVES**, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ **NIKLAS SADE**, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★★★ **DAVID SANTOS**, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- ★★★★ **DAIMION STAFFORD**, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ **BUBBA STARLING**, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ **ZACH STERUP**, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ **JAMAL TURNER**, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★★ **KEVIN WILLIAMS**, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

- | | |
|--|--|
| Jonathan Aiken
CB, 5-11, 185
Hollywood, Fla. | Mickey Johnson
DT, 6-1, 310
Covington, La. |
| Darien Bryant
TE, 6-4, 215
Pickerington, Ohio | Lake Koa-Kaia
DE, 6-4, 250
Honolulu, Hawaii |
| Joseph Carter
DE, 6-5, 250
Chaffey (Calif.) CC | Keith Lewis
LB, 6-0, 194
Lakeland, Fla. |
| Ray Drew
DE, 6-5, 243
Thomasville, Ga. | Wayne Lyons
Safety, 6-0, 190
Ft. Lauderdale, FL. |
| Curt Evans
WR, 6-0, 173
Hollywood, Fla. | *Dexter Moody
LB, 6-2, 210
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC |
| Christian French
Athlete, 6-6, 218
Cedar Rapids, IA | *Malcolm Moulton
WR, 5-11, 185
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC |
| Quentin Griffin
DE, 6-3, 230
Rayville, La. | Patrick Onwuasor
WR, 6-2, 190
Inglewood, Calif. |
| Jalen Grimble
DE, 6-4, 255
Las Vegas, Nev. | Todd Peat, Jr.
DT, 6-3, 300
Tempe, Ariz. |
| Todd Handley
RB, 5-8, 165
Riverside, Calif. | Miles Shuler
WR, 5-11, 173
Long Branch, NJ |
| Christian Heyward
DT, 6-2, 269
San Diego, Calif. | Joel Willis
Athlete, 5-10, 180
Garden Grove, CA |
| Cyrus Hobbi
OL, 6-4, 285
Scottsdale, Ariz. | DeVante Wilson
DE, 6-4, 230
Corona, Calif. |
| Charles Jackson
CB, 5-11, 180
Klein, Texas | <i>* Junior College prospect</i> |

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Huskers close, but work remains before Signing Day

DESPITE THE HUSKERS' inching toward the 20-commit mark in the 2011 class, December won't be a quiet month of recruiting, by any means.

December is usually the calm before the storm as recruiting is just heating up for many schools.

If you want a preview as to how the month will likely go, all you have to do is look back to how Nebraska has put together this top-10-ranked recruiting class to date.

The Huskers have been efficient in their approach.

The coaches haven't sent out truckloads of offers where it appeared they didn't have any specific direction. The top targets were identified early at most positions. That was followed by their receiving a long list of early commitments from those top targets before even the season started.

If you go back, that's been rare for the Huskers – even in the modern day of recruiting, where the art of committing early seems to now be the norm.

If you go deeper, one area Bo Pelini and his staff have excelled in is how they've done with their official visitors.

Once again, it's been about efficiency.

In 2010, of the last 25 official visitors on campus, 14 would end up signing with the Huskers. Though none of the 2011 class has technically signed a letter-

of-intent, of the 25 official visitors so far this year since Oct. 15, 16 are currently Nebraska commits.

Basically, if you want to look at it another way, during the recruiting of this class, for every three visitors that walk into Lincoln, two either enter the trip already committed or will give their pledge following the trip.

That's a good ratio when there have been recruiting weekends that included double-digit visitors.

What's even scarier is, only one of the 10 who visited on the Oct. 10 weekend has committed elsewhere. The other nine are either in the boat for the Big Red already or still have the Huskers on their list. The uncommitted targets include the nation's No. 2 offensive guard prospect Cyrus Hobbi and top defensive end target Lake Koa-Ka'ai as well as defensive end DeVante Wilson.

The other way the Huskers have been efficient is in how they've gone about recruiting some of the big names.

Top running back target Aaron Green pledged to Nebraska in late October and his pledge was certainly the result of an incredible amount of hard work by the NU staff. What was interesting was Green described the Huskers' recruiting efforts as being different, but not because they sent him 80 pounds of mail every day or e-mailed him every half hour.

No, he liked the fact that they left him

alone for basically the entire recruiting process. Sure they'd talk, but Green said he didn't feel bombarded with pressure like he did with other programs.

Yes, I'll say it again – Nebraska was efficient in using its time and for that matter, the recruit's time.

What's next for the Huskers is to be "efficient" with in-home visits.

Other schools are or will start putting some heat on certain Husker commits. Some such as Jamal Turner have already felt that heat from the likes of Texas Tech, while top junior college safety Daimion Stafford is being pressed by Florida. So far, the Huskers have kept those guys solid with their pledges.

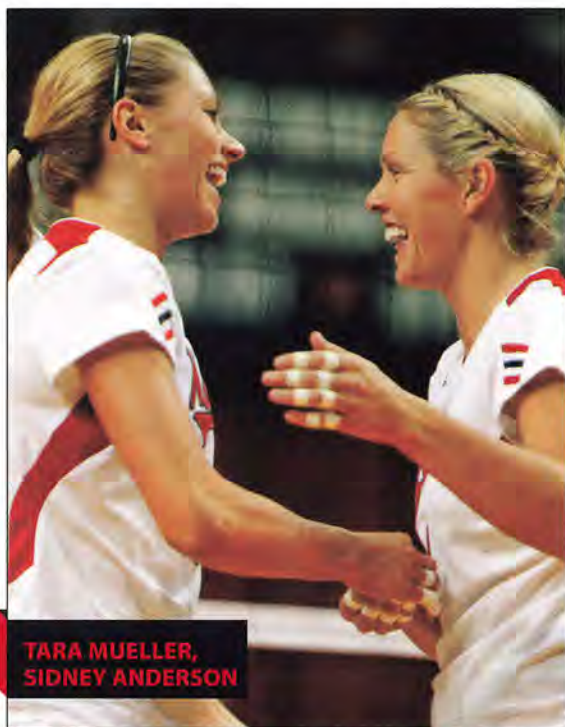
At the same time, 4-star corner Tevin Mitchel has been getting pressure from Arkansas and plans to take that official trip on Dec. 10, one week after the Big 12 Championship game.

Just because the Huskers are close to done with this class doesn't mean there isn't plenty of work to do between now and Signing Day. Judging by how "efficient" they've been with their offers, time, and visits, I don't expect it to be a rocky road at all heading towards February.

If the beginning of this year is any sign, this shouldn't be as bumpy of a finish as some might be accustomed to expecting. **N**

Seniors lead the way to win Big 12 title outright

Nebraska's 19-1 record in conference play clinches first outright title since 2006 | BOB HAMAR



TARA MUELLER,
SIDNEY ANDERSON

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

WINNING THE BIG 12 CONFERENCE TITLE WASN'T THE ONLY GOAL FOR THE NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL TEAM THIS SEASON, BUT IT WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST.

The Huskers not only wanted to win the conference title in their last year in the Big 12 before moving on to the Big Ten, they wanted to win it all by themselves.

Their last outright title came in 2006, but they shared the crown with Texas in 2007 and 2008. The Huskers didn't want to share with anybody this season.

"It was very important," Nebraska senior libero

Kayla Banwarth said. "The seniors had not won the Big 12 outright since we've been here. That was a big goal for us this season. The amount of emphasis we put on that, I mean we stressed it every day. It's been on our minds and was always there as a goal for us."

The Huskers clinched the outright Big 12 title with a sweep at Texas A&M on the final day of the regular season. The Aggies had a big role in

the Nebraska title because they had beaten Texas early in the season, and the Longhorns finished 18-2 in the conference, just one win behind Nebraska at 19-1.

"Our seniors set a goal to win the Big 12 title in our last year in the Big 12 Conference," Nebraska coach John Cook said. "Winning it outright is tough because you have to be great over 11 weeks with the true round-robin schedule."

The Huskers were particularly strong down the stretch with eight consecutive sweeps – including seven straight in November – following a loss at Texas on Oct. 27.

It was the second straight strong November for the Huskers, who also were 7-0 in that month in 2009.

Left side hitters Tara Mueller and Hannah Werth had a big role in this year's stretch run. The Huskers' left sides were struggling through the first half of the season, but rebounded to finish strong.

"We made a decision somewhere toward the end of the first half of the Big 12 that we needed to spend more time with the setters and the left side hitters together," Cook said. "So we started drilling it every day. I think that's been the



HUSKER AWARDS

Sophomore outside hitter Hannah Werth was not only a first-team All-Big 12 pick, but she was also named the Big 12 defensive player of the year.

Werth was second on the team in digs per set (3.01) behind libero Kayla Banwarth during the regular season.

"I think this reward she got is a direct reflection of her becoming a really good all-around player," head coach John Cook said. "I didn't realize this, but (Christina) Houghtelling won that, Jordan Larson won that, Jen Saleaumua won that award, so that's a pretty prestigious group to be in as a sophomore.

"I know she's worked really hard. That kid busts it in practice every day. If she's not getting it, she won't get out of a drill until she does."

Setter Lauren Cook, who transferred from UCLA, was named newcomer of the year in the Big 12. Werth was joined on the first team by senior right side hitter Lindsey Licht and junior middle blocker Brooke Delano.

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0

BYU TOURNAMENT

FRI, SEP 3	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 4	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 4	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0

AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 9	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY	W, 3-2

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	W, 3-1
SAT, OCT 2	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
WED, OCT 6	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 9	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE *	MANHATTAN, KAN.	W, 3-0
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	L, 1-3
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 3	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	W, 3-0
SAT, NOV 6	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TX	W, 3-0

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRI, DEC 3	SACRED HEART	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, DEC 4	AUBURN	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
FRI, DEC 10	WASHINGTON	SEATTLE, WA	9 P.M.
FRI, DEC 11	NCAA REGIONALS	TBA	
THU, DEC 16	NCAA SEMIS	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA
SAT, DEC 18	NATIONAL TITLE	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA

* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

biggest difference. Normally we don't spend a lot of time with that because it's always the middles and the right sides because those are all timing plays. We just decided we needed to spend that time building that rhythm."

Cook said the left sides' hitting percentages were about 100 points higher in the second half of the Big 12 compared to the first.

Mueller, a senior, was hitting just .194 heading into the final month of the regular season but hit .368 in November and raised her hitting percentage to .229 for the season.

Werth, a sophomore, was consistently around the .240 mark through most of the year and was at .242 heading into the NCAA Tournament. Cook had been alternating Werth, Mueller and sophomore Gina Mancuso much of the season, but settled on Werth and Mueller in the final month as the regulars with Mancuso seeing spot duty.

"That was one of the things that was slowing us down early in the year was our left sides, but we're certainly doing a better job there," Cook said as the Huskers headed into the NCAA Tournament. "We were been able to turn it up when we needed to."

Sophomore setter Lauren Cook said that extra work with the left sides paid off.

"We can't rely just on the right

sides and the middles," she said.

"We need all three of our hitters because that's the point of running a 6-2 is that you have three hitters (in the front row) at all times."

Moving to Devaney

The University of Nebraska continues to make plans to make the Devaney Sports Center into a volleyball facility after the new downtown arena is built.

Coach John Cook said moving to the Big Ten Conference next season is certainly part of the reason that the Huskers will be moving to Devaney.

"I think that's one of the driving forces is we have the opportunity to maybe have the best facility in the world," Cook said. "That's how we're going to approach designing it and certainly we want to be the best in the Big Ten."

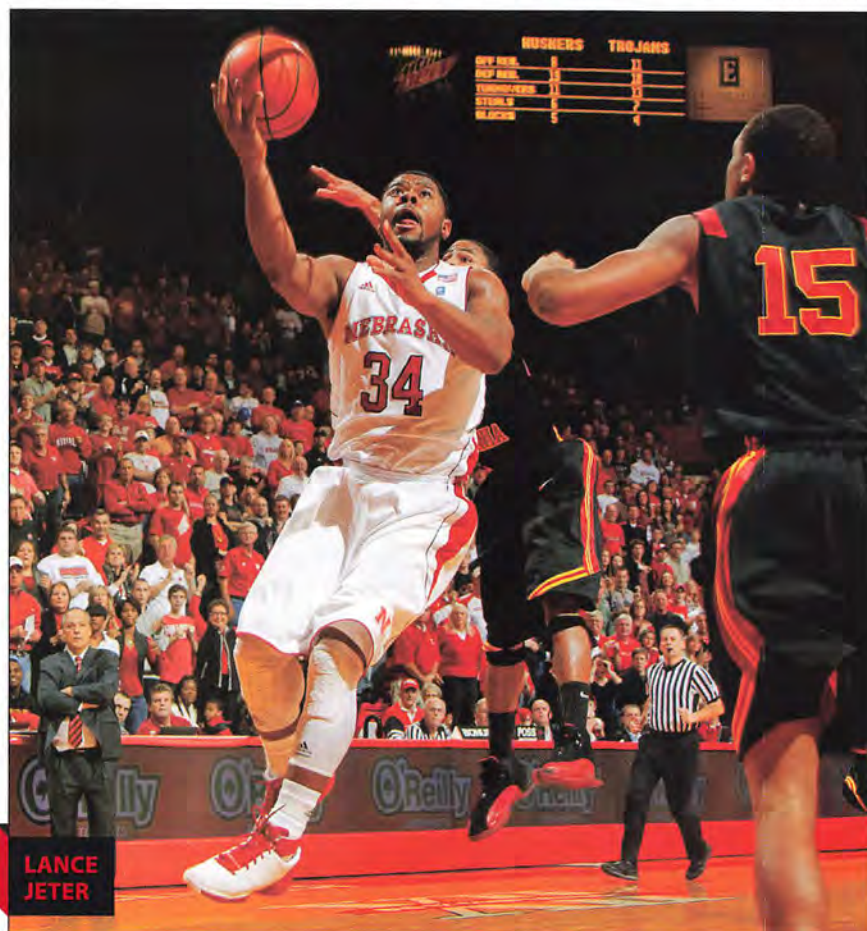
Cook, who coached at Wisconsin for seven years in the 1990s, knows all about the Big Ten. He's always loved the atmosphere at the Coliseum, but said there are some great venues in the Big Ten that will rival the Coliseum.

"The biggest thing at the Coliseum is we're consistent," Cook said. "We sell it out and we have great fans who appreciate those kids and treat them with respect. I think that's what opposing teams appreciate about the Coliseum."

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL BASEBALL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WRESTLING



LANCE JETER

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

RECORD COMEBACK

Most of the 5,947 fans at the Devaney Sports Center left Nebraska's 60-58 victory over Southern California undoubtedly buzzing about the Huskers' come-from-behind effort.

And with good reason.

The Huskers trailed by 20 points in the first half, making their comeback what's believed to be the largest in school history, matching a 1997 overtime win against Kansas State.

Most impressive to coach Doc Sadler, though, was how his team held on in the

final 5 minutes. Nebraska took its first lead with 4 minutes, 47 seconds remaining, built the margin to five points, then exhaled when a USC 3-pointer fell short at the buzzer.

"I think that is huge," Sadler said. "I'm not sure the toughness would have

WRESTLING

Senior Jordan Burroughs became only the 19th Husker in school history to reach 100 career victories when he pinned Corey Lear of Bucknell in a double dual at the NU Coliseum.

Burroughs, who wrestles at 165 pounds, pinned Lear in 1 minute, 5 seconds, and later in the day also pinned John Nething of South Dakota State in 4:02 to remain undefeated on the season.

Those were the fourth and fifth pins of the young season for Burroughs, the Huskers' only undefeated national champion (35-0 in 2008-09). He ranks in Nebraska's top 10 for career winning percentage (.834).

Nebraska won both duals, needing a 12-3 major decision victory from heavyweight Tucker Lane in the final match to edge Bucknell 19-16. The Huskers defeated South Dakota State 36-6.

Coach Mark Manning also announced the signing of four recruits for 2011-12: Austin Wilson, (157/165) from Hastings; Jake Suefloh, (141/149) from Harland, Wis.; Donny Longendyke, (heavyweight) from White Bear Lake, Minn.; and James Green (157) from Willingboro, N.J.

been there a year ago.”

Finishing games has been a bugaboo under Sadler, who’s in his fifth season. Before the USC victory, Nebraska was 1-55 under Sadler in games it trailed with 5 minutes remaining.

Granted, some of those games were lopsided losses to the likes of Kansas and Texas, but many were games Nebraska had led earlier in the second half. Games like last season against Texas A&M, Iowa State, Kansas State, Baylor and Kansas – all Huskers losses.

The last 5 minutes had already haunted Nebraska this season in a loss to Vanderbilt, a game the Huskers had led until 6:23 remained.

That’s why Sadler was encouraged by what happened down the stretch against USC, as much as he was the comeback.

“We just kept going and the guys just kept competing and that is a credit to them,” Sadler said. “The coaches had nothing to do with it. It was all them competing and making their own adjustments and playing tough. Give our guys credit. They came back after a tough first half. We have been talking about the toughness with this basketball team and that is what you have to have.”

Senior Lance Jeter sparked the comeback with his aggressive play. The point guard finished with 13 points, five assists, one

steal and a career-high eight rebounds while pushing the pace in Nebraska’s transition game.

“Coach said before the game that everything might not go our way and there’s always going to be tough times,” Jeter said. “It was a tough time, we were down 20 points. It just shows our mental toughness and that we don’t give up. I’m so proud of my team for not giving up. They showed a lot of heart.”

BROWN SUSPENDED

Sadler isn’t certain when Kamyron Brown will return from his indefinite suspension, but said the junior transfer has responded well to his punishment.

Brown, a 6-foot-2 guard, was benched shortly before Nebraska’s Nov. 15 game against Arkansas-Pine Bluff and has not suited since, although he did travel with the team to the Puerto Rico Tip-Off.

Sadler hasn’t given a reason for the suspension, saying that it’s a personal matter.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Nebraska freshman Jordan Hooper scored a career-high 25 points on 12-of-14 shooting in the Huskers’ victory over UNO, helping the Alliance native earn her second Big 12 Conference freshman of the week honor in only three weeks.

Hooper also had 16 points,

2010-11 MBB Schedule

NOV 03	PERU STATE (EXH.)	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 75-43
NOV 08	BELLEVUE (EXH.)	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 82-58
NOV 12	SOUTH DAKOTA	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 76-68
NOV 15	ARK.-PINE BLUFF	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 83-40

PUERTO RICO TIP-OFF

NOV 18	VANDERBILT	AT SAN JUAN, P.R.	L, 59-49
NOV 19	DAVIDSON	AT SAN JUAN, P.R.	L, 70-67
NOV 21	HOFSTRA	AT SAN JUAN, P.R.	W, 62-47

NOV 27	USC	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 60-58
DEC 01	JACKSON STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 76-57
DEC 05	CREIGHTON	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 59-54
DEC 08	ALCORN STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 78-57
DEC 11	TCU	DEVANEY CENTER	1 P.M.
DEC 18	EASTERN WASH.	DEVANEY CENTER	6 P.M.
DEC 21	GRAMBLING	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
JAN 02	NORTH DAKOTA	DEVANEY CENTER	1 P.M.
JAN 05	SAVANNAH STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
JAN 08	IOWA STATE *	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
JAN 12	MISSOURI *	AT COLUMBIA, MO.	6 P.M.
JAN 15	KANSAS *	AT LAWRENCE, KAN.	1 P.M.
JAN 18	COLORADO *	DEVANEY CENTER	6 P.M.
JAN 22	TEXAS TECH *	AT LUBBOCK, TEXAS	6:30 P.M.
JAN 29	TEXAS A&M *	DEVANEY CENTER	1 P.M.
FEB 02	KANSAS STATE *	AT MANHATTAN, KAN.	7 P.M.
FEB 05	KANSAS *	DEVANEY CENTER	3 P.M.
FEB 09	BAYLOR *	AT WACO, TEXAS	7 P.M.
FEB 12	OKLAHOMA STATE *	DEVANEY CENTER	6 P.M.
FEB 16	OKLAHOMA *	AT NORMAN, OKLA.	8 P.M.
FEB 19	TEXAS *	DEVANEY CENTER	12:30 P.M.
FEB 23	KANSAS STATE *	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
FEB 26	IOWA STATE *	AT AMES, IOWA	12:30 P.M.
MAR 01	MISSOURI *	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
MAR 05	COLORADO *	AT BOULDER, COLO.	8 P.M.

PHILLIPS 66 BIG 12 TOURNAMENT

MAR 09-12	TBA *	AT KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA
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* CONFERENCE GAMES * BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME

six rebounds and two steals in Nebraska's road victory at Washington State.

Five games into her career, Hooper is tied among Big 12 freshmen in scoring at 17 points per game, and also ranks fourth among Big 12 freshmen in rebounding at 5.2 rebounds per game.

BASEBALL

Ten high school players and one junior college transfer have signed letters of intent, making up coach Mike Anderson's 2012 recruiting class.

Three players are from Nebraska, including infielder Taylor Anderson, the coach's son, who chose the Huskers over Kansas, Arizona and Oklahoma State. The other in-state recruits are infielder Blake Headley, a three-sport star from Millard South, and Kyle Kubat, a left-handed pitcher from Creighton Prep.

The junior college transfer

is Travis Uber, a 6-foot-3, 230-pound right-handed pitcher from West Jordan, Utah. He was drafted by the Florida Marlins in the 47th round of the 2010 MLB Draft after his first year at the College of South Idaho, where he held opponents to a .229 batting average and struck out 40 hitters with a 2.27 ERA.

Other recruits are Aaron Bummer, a 6-3, 185-pound left-handed pitcher from Peoria, Ariz.; Austin Christensen, a 6-5, 205-pound left-handed pitcher from Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Austin Darby, a 6-3, 200-pound outfielder from Colorado Springs, Colo.; Patrick Kelly, a 5-11, 170-pound shortstop from Red Wing, Minn.; William Polley, a 6-5, 220-pound right-handed pitcher from River Forest, Ill.; Jeffrey Stovall, a 6-1, 155-pound right-handed pitcher from Irving, Texas; and Kevin Terry, a 6-1, 190-pound catcher from Dallas.



MIKE ANDERSON

2010-11 WBB Schedule

OCT 31	PITTSBURG ST. (EXH.)	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 78-60
NOV 07	NEB.-KEARNEY (EXH.)	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 97-55
NOV 13	VERMONT	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 95-38
NOV 17	MIAMI	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 99-85
NOV 20	SAINT MARY'S	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 64-63
NOV 22	WASHINGTON ST.	AT PULLMAN, WASH.	W, 87-79
NOV 26	NEB.-OMAHA	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 80-44
NOV 30	UNLV	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 65-41
DEC 05	INDIANA	AT BLOOMINGTON	L, 67-61
DEC 08	CREIGHTON	AT OMAHA, NEB.	W, 63-57
DEC 11	NO. COLORADO	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.

DUEL IN THE DESERT

DEC 18	HOUSTON	AT LAS VEGAS, NEV.	6 P.M.
DEC 19	MARIST	AT LAS VEGAS, NEV.	8:30 P.M.
DEC 20	LOUISVILLE	AT LAS VEGAS, NEV.	8:30 P.M.

DEC 30	SOUTH FLORIDA	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
JAN 02	FLORIDA A&M	DEVANEY CENTER	6:05 P.M.
JAN 08	OKLAHOMA *	DEVANEY CENTER	2:05 P.M.
JAN 11	IOWA STATE *	AT AMES, IOWA	7 P.M.
JAN 16	KANSAS *	DEVANEY CENTER	2 P.M.
JAN 22	KANSAS STATE *	AT MANHATTAN, KAN.	1 P.M.
JAN 26	IOWA STATE *	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
JAN 29	TEXAS TECH *	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
FEB 02	MISSOURI *	AT COLUMBIA, MO.	7 P.M.
FEB 06	COLORADO *	AT BOULDER, COLO.	3 P.M.
FEB 09	BAYLOR *	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
FEB 12	OKLAHOMA STATE *	AT STILLWATER, OKLA.	2 P.M.
FEB 15	TEXAS *	AT AUSTIN, TEXAS	7 P.M.
FEB 19	KANSAS STATE *	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
FEB 22	MISSOURI *	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
FEB 26	KANSAS *	AT LAWRENCE, KAN.	7 P.M.
MAR 02	COLORADO *	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
MAR 05	TEXAS A&M *	AT COLL. STATION, TEXAS	7 P.M.

PHILLIPS 66 BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP

MAR 8-12 AT KANSAS CITY, MO. (MUNICIPAL)

NCAA FIRST & SECOND ROUNDS

MAR 19-22 (AT 16 PREDETERMINED SITES)

NCAA REGIONALS

MAR 26-29 (AT DALLAS, DAYTON, PHILADELPHIA, SPOKANE)

NCAA WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR

APR 3-5 (AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND. (CONSECO FIELDHOUSE))

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H2

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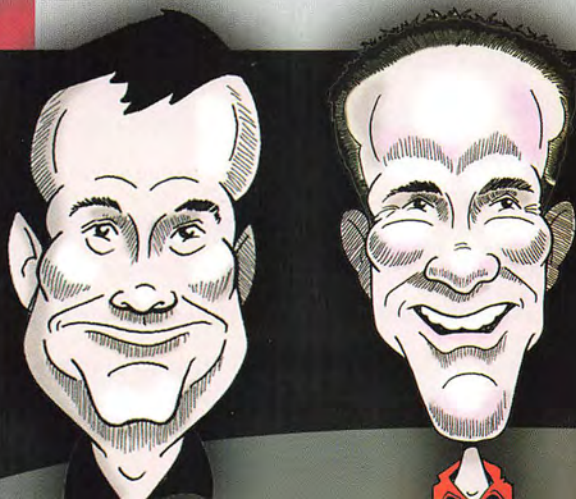


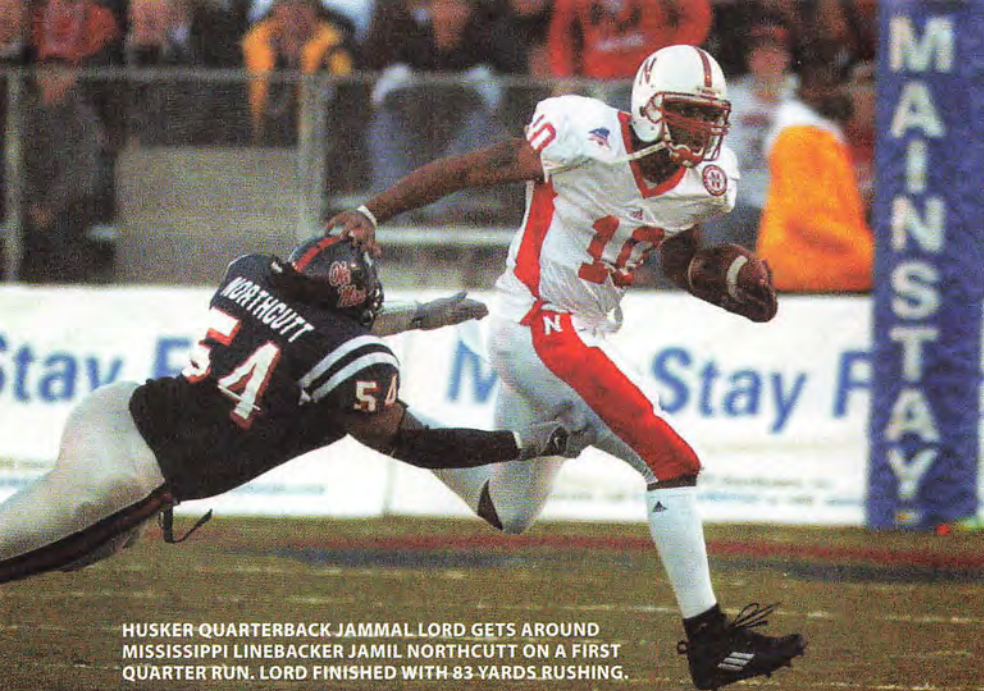
BABCOCK
& **BABCOCK**
DAILY HUSKER BLOG

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIRST OF A KIND

Taylor Martinez now needs 58 yards to become the fourth Cornhusker quarterback to rush for 1,000 in a season. The redshirted freshman from Corona, Calif., almost certainly would have raced past that defining number if not for an ankle injury and turf toe. Scott Frost was the first Husker quarterback to reach it, rushing for 1,096 yards and 19 touchdowns to lead Tom Osborne's final team to the coaches' national championship as a senior in 1997. In fact, Frost's impassioned plea following a 42-17 victory against No. 3-ranked Tennessee in the Orange Bowl probably influenced the voting. He also passed for 1,237 yards and five touchdowns in 1997, prior to the NCAA's including bowl-game statistics in the official total. So his numbers would have been slightly higher. The Wood River, Neb., native, who began his collegiate career playing for Bill Walsh at Stanford, is in his second season as receivers coach at Oregon, which will play Auburn for the BCS national championship in Glendale, Ariz., on Jan. 10.





HUSKER QUARTERBACK JAMMAL LORD GETS AROUND MISSISSIPPI LINEBACKER JAMIL NORTHUTT ON A FIRST QUARTER RUN. LORD FINISHED WITH 83 YARDS RUSHING.

GAMESREMEMBERED

Failure to communicate

Huskers finish 7-7 after 27-23 loss to Eli Manning's Ole Miss; fake punt falls apart

ASK JUST about any Nebraska football fan who watched the 2002 Independence Bowl game and you'll probably hear about the ill-advised fake punt that failed, how miscommunication between sideline and the field was the undoing of what would be Frank Solich's next-to-last team.

The Cornhuskers held a 20-17 lead late in the third quarter and faced fourth-and-12 at their own 35-yard line. Fullback Judd Davies, the up-back in Nebraska's

punt formation, called an audible in response to the defensive alignment, switching what would have been a Kyle Larson punt into a pass. Davies took the snap and threw the pass, intended for running back Marques Simmons. It was incomplete.

Ole Miss took over at the 35 and four plays later scored what proved to be the winning touchdown.

Despite a 7-6 record going into the game, Nebraska was favored. "These may not be Tom Osborne's Cornhuskers,

but they'll be able to run like them against the Rebels' defense that is undersized up front," *The Sporting News* said in predicting a Nebraska blowout.

The Huskers rushed for 207 yards in the first half, but only 59 on 21 carries in the second.

FRANK SOLICH: "The season was disappointing to us all. Now that this season is behind us, we'll move forward, and the guys that are coming back are ready to move forward."

MISSISSIPPI 27, NEBRASKA 23

Dec. 27, 2002 * Shreveport, La.

Nebraska	3	14	3	3	-	23
Mississippi	0	14	10	3	-	27

(N) Josh Brown 29 field goal
 (N) Matt Herian 41 pass Jammal Lord (Brown kick)
 (M) Kerry Johnson 11 pass Eli Manning (Jonathan Nichols kick)
 (N) DeJuan Groce 60 punt return (Brown kick)
 (M) Toward Sanford 1 run (Nichols kick)
 (M) Nichols 37 field goal
 (N) Brown 23 field goal
 (M) Sanford 1 run (Nichols kick)
 (N) Brown 29 field goal
 (M) Nichols 43 field goal

Attendance: 40,712

DO YOU REMEMBER?

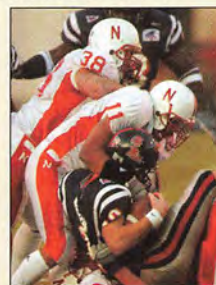
► The game attracted a solid television audience on ESPN, drawing a 3.6 rating, tying for the third-best in the bowl game's history. However, no more than 6,000 Husker fans made the trip.

► Nebraska finished the season with a 7-7 record, its worst since 1961.

► The NCAA began including bowl games in its official statistics in 2002. But the change was not retroactive. As a result, DeJuan Groce tied an NCAA single-season record for punt return touchdowns with his 60-yarder in the second quarter.

► Husker rush end Chris Kelsay was named Defensive Player of the Game. The senior from Auburn, Neb., was credited with five tackles, including 1.5 sacks.

► The Huskers sacked Ole Miss quarterback Eli Manning four times, but only once in the second half. Junior rush end Trevor Johnson had two first-half sacks but suffered a concussion late in the half and didn't return.



CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

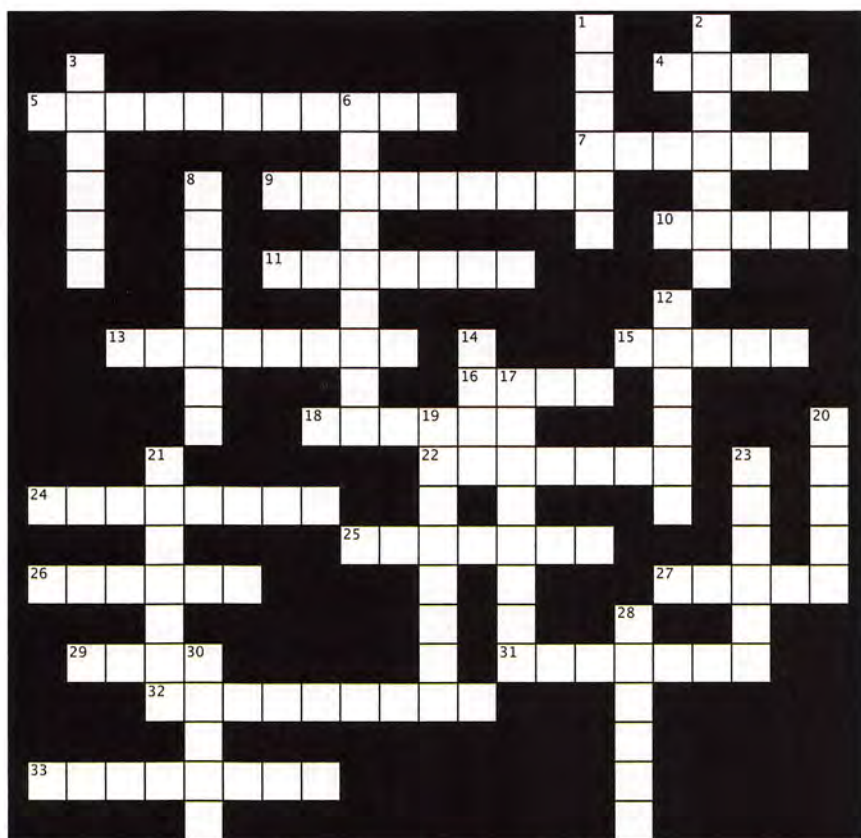
ACROSS

4. First bowl game NU played in (1941)
5. 2011 non-conference opponent
7. Defensive line coach
9. Former Washington head coach now at UCLA
10. Long-time Washington head coach
11. Washington campus location
13. Threw touchdown pass vs. Oklahoma
15. Had 2 sacks vs. Oklahoma
16. Network for Holiday Bowl
18. 2000 Rimington Award winner
22. Wears No. 1
24. Defensive ends coach
25. 1995 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award winner
26. Washington quarterback
27. First-team All-Big 12 offensive lineman
29. Caught touchdown pass vs. Oklahoma
31. Intercepted pass vs. Oklahoma
32. Washington head coach
33. Big 12's Offensive Freshman of the Year

DOWN

1. Washington school color
2. Bowl game after 2009 season
3. Bowl game NU has played in the most
6. Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year
8. 1993 Butkus Award winner
12. 2001 Davey O'Brien Award winner
14. Leading rusher vs. Oklahoma
17. Holiday Bowl city
19. 2010 Big 12 champion
20. Big 12 Coach of the Year
21. Washington nickname
23. Wears No. 84
28. Bowl game that was NU's first bowl victory (1962)
30. Leading tackler vs. Oklahoma


Answers will appear in the February issue.



HUSKERNUTZ



REGGIE ALWAYS KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF CHRISTMAS GIFT TO GET FOR VIVIAN.



BRAIN BUSTER

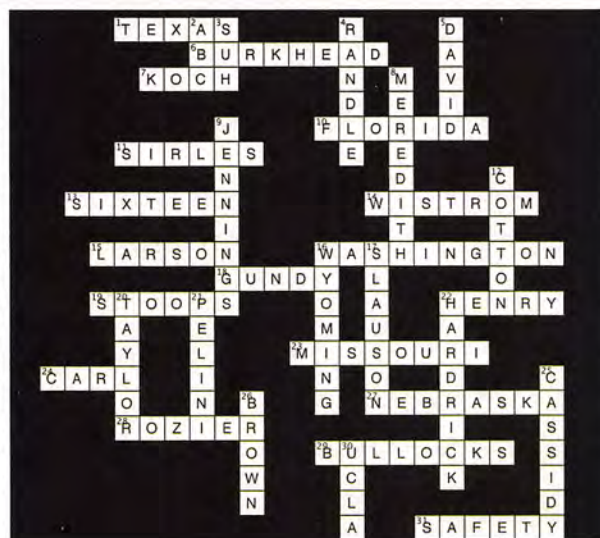
Get out your Big Red thinking cap on this one.

What Cornhusker holds the school record for career-rushing yards in bowl games? Only 9 yards separate No. 1 and No. 2. Your choices are: Mike Rozier, Eric Crouch, Dan Alexander, Lawrence Phillips, Dahrran Diedrick, Ahman Green, Tommie Frazier.

Answer will appear in our next issue

DECEMBER ANSWER: Josh Brown (1999-00-01-02), Mike Minter (1993-94-95-96), Will Shields (1989-90-91-92), Jon Rutherford (1998-99-00-01), Josh Heskew (1995-96-97-98), Zac Taylor (2005-06), Jason Pesterfield (1992-93-94), Jason Lohr (1998-99-00-03).

DECEMBER SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Huskers looking for traction in the friction

THE QUESTION regarding Nebraska's level of disappointment in losing to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship game needn't have been asked. So Bo Pelini interrupted to answer.

"It's pretty obvious what the level of disappointment is," he said. "I mean, we came in here to win the Big 12 championship; we didn't get it done. The kids are hurting.

"And it's a pretty obvious question, isn't it?"

Pelini sat behind a long table on a riser in the interview room at Cowboys Stadium. He was flanked by Rex Burkhead, Jared Crick and Lavonte David to his left and Roy Helu, Jr. to his right.

Flat screens on the walls to either side showed a Sooner helmet and "Congratulations."

David was the only player not asked an obligatory question. Presumably, players would be available later, in less formal circumstances in the hallway near the locker room. They were not.

In addition, only a couple of Husker assistants were willing to talk to reporters.

"We've got to look at this, what looks like a terrible loss . . . (as) something that could be a stepping stone," tight ends coach Ron Brown said. "We've got to turn the friction into traction, and then we pass that on to our kids. That's what leadership is all about, taking them somewhere they wouldn't normally go. The leader, first of

all, has to lead himself well. He's got to be thinking right.

"That's what I've learned over the years."

Brown and offensive coordinator Shawn Watson, who also talked to reporters afterward, are the veterans on Pelini's staff. Both began coaching nearly 30 years ago.

Brown came to Nebraska from Brown University in 1987. And he's been here ever since, with a forced, four-year sabbatical when Bill Callahan was the head coach.

In Brown's first seven seasons as Tom Osborne's receivers and tight ends coach, the Huskers lost seven bowl games, causing some to suggest Osborne couldn't win "big" games. The string of bowl losses ended in 1994, with the first of Osborne's three national championships.

Brown acknowledged the bowl losing streak. "You learn some tough things," he said.

Pelini's third team has learned some tough things, losing three games by a combined 13 points. To come that close can be "the mark or the makings, sometimes, of a great program," said Brown. "You're trying. You're looking for answers. You're not making excuses. You keep battling."

Emotionally, Pelini was still battling when he sat down for the post-game interview session, which is why the

"level of disappointment" question was unnecessary.

Pelini has made it clear he came to Nebraska to win championships. Husker fans expect no less of a tradition-rich program that was a long way from such achieving such a goal three seasons ago.

That Callahan's tenure as head coach was ill-fated might have been apparent from the final game of his first season, a 26-20 loss to Colorado, which left the Huskers with a 5-6 record.

Afterward, Callahan told reporters it was only one game in one season, evidence of a lack of understanding of a culture in which every game in every season matters.

Pelini is finding out about that culture and whether it fits his vision.

"If you don't have vision, then every single game is life-and-death," Brown said. "If you win, you're the greatest in the world and you let down and you get beat. If you lose, it's the worst thing in the world and it becomes a domino effect.

"You just have to have some vision and see, 'Hey, how close we were.'"

Yes, the Huskers could have been Big 12 champs and headed to a BCS bowl. But again, it's been only three seasons since they were 5-7 and searching for answers. Now, they're 10-3, with an opportunity for their first 11-win season since 2001. There's traction to be had in the friction. **N**

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